



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Achievements of CIS Government Heads Meeting Assessed

*PM1503152593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
13 Mar 93 p 2*

[Viktor Shirokov report under "Meeting of Heads of Government" rubric: "People Who Do Something"]

[Text] I remember now: Yegor Timurovich Gaydar ascended these highly polished steps during the last Moscow meeting of CIS heads of government, but as the saying goes, some are far distant, some are dead.... Just five premiers gathered yesterday in the President Hotel (the CPSU Central Committee's Oktyabrskaya Hotel, lest we forget...), while the rest bore the prefix "vice." Not even the host, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, looked kindly on this meeting—he sent his deputy, Aleksandr Shokhin, preferring the Congress stadium. A March blizzard altogether marooned the Ukrainian delegation in Bryansk.

Not that all this had any effect whatever on the pace of the agenda's examination—and maybe it even accelerated it. Although the size of the agenda was intimidating—15 items and also a 16th under the mysterious "Other Business."

Incidentally, the unfailing Shaposhnikov made this all-embracing item somewhat clearer to journalists. The marshal reported that he had included under this "rubric" the problem of the CIS countries' cooperation in producing military hardware.

"Today," the star-bedecked military chief said, "when it has become clear to everyone that no one is encroaching upon the republics' sovereignties, all the governments' leaders have agreed that collaboration in the military-technical sphere is simply essential."

I will name just a few items on the extensive agenda. Our rulers approved measures to protect industrial property, agreed on an antimonopoly policy, and spoke about the coordinating council of an interstate television and radio company. They did not even forget to talk about cooperation in the sphere of veterinary science. They decided—bully for them!—that all republics will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our common victory in the Great Patriotic War. (Can you imagine if they had forgotten this question?)

The basic problem was also discussed: that of the Commonwealth member states' economic development last year. It has to be said that the development, if any at all, was not very great. True, the premiers did not lose their optimism. During the break S. Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan told us:

"We advocate the preservation of a unified economic area. There is no need to erect customs barriers between producers. Particularly if you look to the future, for the slump is not eternal, and an upsurge could begin in a year or two. It is then that our close ties will really prove useful!"

The Kazakhstani premier with a Ukrainian surname is right. If only this were so....

Ukrainian Premier L. Kuchma nonetheless got out of Bryansk and assured journalists on his arrival in Moscow that he would sign the documents discussed at the meeting. Chernomyrdin also drove over from the Kremlin. He spoke mainly about his recent trip to Surgut, where accords were reached on the Commonwealth countries' cooperation in Russia's oil industry.

The question of the progress in preparing an agreement on setting up the CIS Consultative Coordination Committee was also examined at the meeting. Vice premiers will be active on it.

In general, in my view, the meeting of heads of government came off. While the Kremlin passions were thundering, they very quietly carried on their work and seem to have done something. Somebody has to....

Environmental Committee Adopts Recommendations

LD1503234793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1205 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 15 Mar—The second session of the standing commission on environmental problems of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly ended with the adoption of its first legislative act that contains recommendations on compensation for ecological damage. The document is based on a draft proposed by the Kazakhstan delegation.

The commission has discussed ecological norms and standards in the area of the use of natural resources and the protection of the environment, measures to monitor the condition and changes in the environment and its resources, and the mechanism of settling disputes that may arise during the implementation of ratified legal acts of the CIS on questions of eliminating consequences of the ecological damage in the regions of Semipalatinsk, Chernobyl, the Aral Sea, and other regions.

The commission's message addressed to the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly states that questions of protection of the environment must be given priority and that it is necessary to increase resources allocated for this purpose.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Mar

LD1603095093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0609 GMT 16 Mar 93

[“Press Review”—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Today's newspapers widely comment on the results of the 8th Extraordinary Congress of Russian People's Deputies which ended on March 13.

Most newspapers point out that the congress has failed to remove the confrontation between the executive and legislative powers. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that the congress marked the beginning of the "Belovezh period" in the Russian history. The newspaper pointed out that resolutions passed by the congress were considerably influenced by "a factor which until recently did not play any serious role in the political struggle—leaders of republics and heads of regional administrations."

"It is difficult to say anything yet about forms, in which the 'Belovezh process' will develop in Russia, about its pace and consequences. But in the struggle for power a card of strengthening regions is going to be played by everybody. Including the president, parliament and numerous contenders for primary and secondary roles," the newspaper said.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov, who said that "the 8th Congress showed that Russia is facing a great danger of the upsurge of national separatism, while top bodies of powers are settling scores and clearing their positions, their rights and duties are being taken over by regions."

Politologist Andrannik Migranyan, member of the Presidential Council, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that "the first and the most important result of the congress is the general weakening of power in Russia, primarily centralised power, consequently resulting in further strengthening the subjects of the Federation".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes that the congress has failed to remove "the confrontation of powers which spiral is leading up. The congress has rejected a compromise with the president. As a result, legal space given to the president for his activity has not been merely reduced, but seemed to follow the sad fate of shagreen leather," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA said.

TRUD holds a similar view saying that by rejecting all attempts by the president to ease the tension of confrontation between the powers and by rejecting all president's proposals, the congress made another step to further limiting the powers of the head of state."

The newspaper PRAVDA writes that "the conflict has flared up between the president and society."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with the first president of the Ingush Republic Ruslan Aushev. Speaking about problems faced by the head of a new autonomous republic within the Russian Federation, Aushev said that the primary task is to streamline relations with North Ossetia. Aushev emphasized that this difficult task should be resolved on a basis of the law

on rehabilitation of repressed people and proceeding from conscientious positions.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Lieutenant-General Gennadiy Bochayev, chief of the Main Organizational and Mobilization Department of the General Headquarters of the Russian Armed Forces.

The newspaper's political observer, Anatoliy Dokuchayev, quotes the general as saying that he is "concerned about a sore point of Russia's military construction—the formation of units and divisions. Although the call-up has been completed, problems connected with the Army formation increased. In autumn, 95.5 per cent of the planned number of servicemen were drafted, while troops have an enrollment of 50-60 per cent. The situation in the Armed Forces is almost critical because of a small number of servicemen," Bochayev said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with the Russian prosecutor general, Valentin Stepankov, who attempts to analyze the causes of growing crime rates in Russia. Stepankov believes that for efficient struggle with criminals a clear cut strategy and a reliable legal basis is needed. Stepankov said that it was necessary to review the existing legislature which, as he put it, is lagging behind times.

Newspapers publish a resolution by the 8th Congress of People's Deputies "on compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation by top bodies of power and officials", on "measures for the implementation of a constitutional reform" and an "address to the citizens of the Russian Federation."

The government newspaper ROSSIYSKIE VESTI carries an article devoted to problems of employment in Russia. According to the newspaper, last year 2.4 million people applied to the State Employment Service, which is by 1.6 times more than in 1991. [sentence as received]

The labour market offers jobs predominantly for two categories of workers. The first one includes those who are connected with the development of market relations—managers, highly qualified lawyers, financiers, economists, accountants, interpreters, commercial and insurance agents.

Law-qualified jobs are still available, as well as non-prestigious jobs and those connected with hazardous labour conditions.

In another article, the newspaper analyses the consequences of a law on bankruptcy recently adopted by the Russian parliament. "If privatization goes at a quicker pace, the law on bankruptcy will work, bringing the number of unemployed by the middle of the year to 3-4 million people," the newspaper said.

French President Mitterrand Arrives in Moscow

LD1603122093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar—French President Francois Mitterrand arrived today in the Russian capital on a one-day official visit. The program of the visit includes a one-to-one talk with President Boris Yeltsin, as well as talks on a number of topical problems. In particular the sides will discuss possibilities of increasing the effectiveness of Western help to Russia and questions of bilateral relations. At the end of the talks Boris Yeltsin and Francois Mitterrand will hold a joint news conference and later the Russian president will host a dinner on his behalf in honor of the French guest.

Visit Shows Support for Reforms

OW1503130493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1237 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A senior official of the Russian Foreign Ministry's European Department has declared that a one-day visit by President Francois Mitterrand to Moscow on Tuesday, March 16, will demonstrate Paris's support for the course of reform in Russia. The visit has special meaning in the light of the decisions of the 8th Congress of People's Deputies, the diplomat stressed in an interview with INTERFAX.

In his words, Mitterrand's talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be "the core" of the visit. The program of his stay does not envisage any other meetings.

The presidents are expected to examine bilateral relations and discuss what France could do both within the framework of the G-7 and on its own to assist transformations in Russia.

The sides are also to examine some international issues, including the situation in volatile spots of Europe. The official suggested that the presidents would "quite probably" make joint statements on events in Nagorno Karabakh and in former Yugoslavia. No other documents are planned to be signed during the visit.

The diplomat also reported that at the end of their talks, the two leaders will hold a joint news-conference in the Foreign Ministry's press center at about 17:00 [1400 GMT].

Paris regards Washington's backing of the idea to hold a special G-7 meeting to discuss support for Russian reforms as a "reciprocal move." This was reported to INTERFAX by the press spokesman at the French Embassy in Moscow, Aleksandr Kelchevsky.

In his words, the idea was suggested by the Chairman of the EC Commission, Jacques Delors, and "was immediately welcomed by President Francois Mitterrand." It

was the French president who tried to convince his western partners that such a gathering was essential"—the diplomat remarked.

As for the new American administration, in Mr. Kelchevsky's words, "it somewhat hesitated and did not embark on that path right away."

Yeltsin Meets Mitterrand

LD1603130293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin officially welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand to Moscow in St. George's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace today.

The state anthems of Russia and France were played.

Boris Yeltsin and Francois Mitterrand were then left alone in the Catherine Hall for one-to-one talks. They will be continued later in an expanded format.

In welcoming Francois Mitterrand, Boris Yeltsin stressed that he viewed the French president's visit as an expression of support for the position of the Russian president in favour of reforms and democracy. The Russian president expressed hope that Russo-French negotiations would impart a new powerful impulse to bilateral cooperation.

The two presidents and delegations are expected to discuss the possibility of expanding French assistance to Russian reforms and Russia's integration in international structures such as the Council of Europe and the European Communities.

The presidents are also expected to brief each other on the situation in their countries. The problems of Yugoslavia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the forthcoming G-7 summit in Tokyo in July will also be examined.

Boris Yeltsin and Francois Mitterrand will speak to journalists at a joint news conference after the talks.

Mitterrand Meets With Gorbachev

LD1603170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 16 Mar 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 16 March—French President Francois Mitterrand, who is in Moscow on a visit, had a meeting today with Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the USSR and head of the International Foundation for Socioeconomic and Politological Research.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the "Gorbachev Foundation" press service that the meeting, which was organized at the initiative of the French side, had received a warm response.

"Francois Mitterrand's wish to meet Mikhail Gorbachev is explained by their personal good relations and by the political situation in Russia," Aleksandr Likhotal, an advisor to the foundation's leader, commented on the meeting.

Constitutional Court Chairman Arrives in Washington

LD1503211593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2035 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington March 15 TASS—Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, arrived in Washington at the invitation of the U.S. Supreme Court chief William Rehnquist.

Zorkin will take part in a conference of the leaders of the federal court system and meet with President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Albert Gore in the White House.

On Monday, Zorkin addressed the U.S. National Press Club members. He spoke about the tasks facing the new and emerging bodies of judicial in Russia.

U.S. Seeking To Use Russia Against China

PM1503121393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Viktor Linnik commentary: "The Cause of the Nation Since Earliest Times and the Hour 'Common to All Mankind'"]

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry could not do other than loyally wag its tail on the eve of the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting, so it went ahead and announced that Russia would be taking part in the extremely stupid U.S. operation to airlift food into Bosnia-Herzegovina. But even now, a week later, none of the television crews risking life and limb have been able to film any food containers successfully delivered. Moreover, a French general from the UN contingent there has reconnoitered the area and thrown the Americans into complete confusion by revealing that the rumors of starving Bosnians are exaggerated, to put it mildly.

However, the Americans may have their reasons for carrying out this operation: Humanitarian flights to these areas give them an opportunity to study the layout of the Serbs' air defense system, in case they should later have occasion to drop something more substantial than waffles and jam, Santa Claus-style: cluster bombs, for example. But the only reason for involving Russian transport in this business, to use a phrase worthy of Manilov [character in Gogol's novel *Dead Souls*], is elementary fear: a natural reaction on Kozyrev's part to the Foreign Ministry's recent brave and quite uncharacteristic statements that Russia could raise the question of sanctions against Bosnia-Herzegovina in the United

Nations. It is straight out of Khlestakov [character in Gogol's play *The Inspector General*]: That's the kind of man I am, I shall do as I think fit, even the State Council is afraid of me! Naturally, this escapade had to end in the same Khlestakovian fashion: fear of what was said in the heat of the moment.

Suddenly changing tack like this is just another example of the strange movements made by our foreign policy in recent months. [passage omitted]

Take one of the cornerstones of Kozyrev's foreign policy: relations with the United States. Is it really to the latter's advantage to have a prosperous Russia, which, by expressing its spiritual, political, and economic potential to the full, will challenge Washington's claims to world leadership? I think the answer is obvious, regardless of the social system we have: socialism, communism, or monarchy. More than once in the many years of my contact with Americans I have heard people from all walks of life say in various conversations: On the whole, thank goodness you Russians have such an inefficient economic system. I dread to think what would happen if you fully developed your potential!

So it is clear, incidentally, why U.S. efforts to supply Russia with aid have been so feeble in the last 18 months. But, you may argue, surely the United States rebuilt rivals for itself from the defeated Germany and Japan? So why should we not expect traditional U.S. generosity toward a Russia vanquished in the cold war?

But arguing in this way means abstracting oneself from the specific historical situation of the time, when the United States desperately needed a counterweight to the socialist system, which strengthened immensely after World War II. Remember how Rubin in Solzhenitsyn's *First Circle* colors in the boundless spaces of Russia and China with a red pencil? Those were the conditions in which the Marshall Plan and U.S. charity to the fallen Germany and Japan materialized!

But, for the last year or so, all we have heard are declarations about the mythical \$24 billion on which it was planned to build not only Kozyrev's foreign policy but also Gaydar's economic reform. First, the United States is terribly afraid to invest money in Russia, as it cannot be sure who will be in power in our country tomorrow. This is understandable. It sank vast sums of money in Chiang Kai-shek and in the end this money was thrown to the wind. Our executive authorities, meanwhile, are cutting the ground from beneath their own feet: The more they shout at every international forum about communists and nationalists getting together, the more they discourage the West from helping us. Finally, as THE WASHINGTON POST caustically remarks, "Western miserliness, which has undermined President Yeltsin's position," has also played a part.

True, there are reasons why the United States is interested in maintaining friendly relations with the Yeltsin leadership. One of them is connected with the present

geopolitical situation in the world. Russia—as a mid-dling power, no more—is necessary to the United States as a counterweight to the increasingly powerful China and to Islamic fundamentalism, which is spreading like wildfire. The United States is getting ready for the battle of the next century, the third millennium—with China—and it certainly would not go amiss to have Russia on its side. As the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE let slip recently, “authoritarian China, armed with nuclear weapons, with a population of more than 1 billion, and with an army and air force equipped with the very latest technology, is a daunting thought. This will perhaps even justify the need to keep Russia as an ally of the West.” This then is the underlying reason for the new “partnership” relations between Russia and the United States on which Kozyrev and Co. so love to lecture headstrong patriots.

The United States has started on us now. I was told by some old Chinese generals who still remember the “Long March.” One small detail: Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe will start broadcasting to China in 18 months time.

Control nuclear disarmament in Russia with the aid of START II, harness our raw material capacity to the Western economic engine, use our remaining military muscle to get a grip of minor enemies of the “new world order” like Iraq or Yugoslavia, and keep us to use against China in the future—this, essentially, is the U.S. interpretation of partnership relations with us. Switch on your television set: The Americanization of Russia is in full swing.

But is this really in our national interests?

Commentator Views Planned U.S. Military Base Closures

LD1503190493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] The United States Defense Department has announced plans to shut down many military bases in the United States and overseas. Comment is by Vladislav Kozyakov and this is what he writes:

In the United States 31 major military installations will be affected and another 134 will be scaled back or realigned. Overseas, 29 have been pinpointed for closure or reduction of operations, including bases in Germany, Britain, Greece, and the Japanese island of Okinawa.

The plan is yet to be discussed in various federal agencies before it goes to the White House, but it's very appearance is significant. The far flung network of American military installations was an outgrowth of the global confrontation. Now that the cold war is over, there would seem to be no reason for such a massive American military presence in every corner of the world.

Dismantling of the Soviet military machine that Russia has largely inherited is going forward at a still faster pace. Munitions production, for one, is being slashed. Last year alone government purchases fell off by 68 percent. Also Russian troops are returning from Germany; the withdrawal is expected to finish already next year. Also Russian troops stationed in former Soviet republics are returning home, fully or in part, in accordance with inter-governmental agreements.

Though Russia and the United States face rather different problems politically and economically when it comes to reducing their armed forces, it can still be said that in this respect the United States is lagging behind Russia.

Strictly speaking the two have two important problems in common. Both must confront the acute problem of providing jobs and other social benefits for the servicemen returning to civilian life and for the civilians losing their jobs because of the cutback in munitions production and the closure of military installations. Another difficulty both countries face is converting munitions production to civilian production.

If we look beyond the temporary difficulties, however, we find there will be a growing peace dividend. According to Pentagon estimates shutting down and scaling back U.S. bases will save more than \$5 billion annually.

But there is no estimating in dollars or rubles how much civilian production and progress in general stand to gain from the switch of money, resources, and human energy from military to peaceful purposes in either country, the United States or Russia. The current partnership of the two is helping both to beat swords into plowshares.

Christopher on Status of Moscow Embassy Complex

PM1503113593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 93 p 2

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report under “From Our News Bureau” rubric: “Demolition Decision Deferred”]

[Text] As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has reported, the Americans have no intention of demolishing their unfinished embassy in Moscow and building a new one in its place. Christopher has proposed that the \$240 million assigned for that purpose by the Bush administration be used to develop the network of U.S. embassies in the other former Soviet republics.

As is known, the Americans halted construction of the new building in Moscow in 1985, when listening devices were discovered in it. Under the new conditions, the secretary of state remarked, the existing complex of embassy buildings could entirely meet our needs and security considerations.

West's Response to Yeltsin-Congress Clash Viewed

PM1503170393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
13 Mar 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "Yeltsin Did Not Consult With Kohl About Introducing Presidential Rule in Russia"]

[Text] A letter from FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl which was circulated to the leaders of the world's seven foremost industrial nations prompted a heavy stream of serious comment and worthless speculation insofar as its contents became known at the very height of the battles at the Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies.

The message relayed asserted that during a meeting with the German chancellor in Moscow last week, Boris Yeltsin clearly hinted that he is relying on the West's political support if the conflict with parliament goes too far and forces him to take "extraordinary measures."

In an interview with a Radio Liberty correspondent, the Russian president's official spokesman categorically rejected the assumption that Boris Yeltsin had consulted with the chancellor about introducing presidential power in Russia at this meeting. Reports of this kind, in his view, most probably emerged with the participation of Yeltsin's opponents inside Russia itself.

One high-level staffer in the Washington administration, who insisted on remaining anonymous, explained that a large part of Kohl's letter was taken up by an evaluation of Russia's economic problems. Mention of the likelihood of parliament's being dissolved as a last resort was brief, and it did not follow from this that Yeltsin is in need of the West's support.

Nevertheless, the U.S. President reacted swiftly. "I intend to do everything I can to support him for the duration of his time as Russian president," Bill Clinton stated. He also sent a letter to the "Big Seven" leaders inducing them to devote sufficient time and effort to examining the question of economic aid to Russia.

This week Bill Clinton spent 20 minutes discussing the "Russian question" with his predecessor in the post of president, George Bush. Immediately after this, a meeting took place with yet another ex-president, Richard Nixon, which was largely dedicated to American foreign policy aims in respect of Russia. In this context, foreign commentators are recalling that during the election campaign Clinton had reproached Bush for sluggishness and unresponsiveness in showing support for the Russian reforms.

A statement by V. Lukin, Russia's ambassador to the United States, warning that aid in words alone is not enough and may merely cause "irritation" unless it is reinforced with real steps, was issued concurrently.

On the eve of the extraordinary congress' opening in Moscow, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher

confirmed: The administration intends to ask Congress to increase technical aid to Russia and the other former USSR republics this year to \$700 million. Furthermore, a package of proposals is being prepared which includes measures to ease the burden of debt and facilitate access to international credit institutions. A contract offering Russia a U.S. Export-Import Bank loan worth \$2 billion to modernize the oil and gas complex is virtually ready.

At the same time, one cannot blot out from the field of vision those statements in Washington, prompted by Kohl's letter, which provide an answer to the question of how the Clinton administration would behave if President Yeltsin did indeed opt for "extraordinary measures." White House spokesman G. Stephanopoulos said: "The President hopes that the Russians will settle their differences in such a way so as to allow the reforms to continue." U.S. State Department spokesman R. Boucher was inundated with questions basically duplicating each other. However, he refused to give an unequivocal reply as to whether official Washington supports or condemns "extraordinary measures."

Therefore, observers proceed from precedent: The United States condemned Peru's President Alberto Fujimori when in April 1992 he dissolved parliament, suspended the Constitution, and undertook to run the country with recourse to the military.

Despite this, a significant number of political experts agree about one thing: In the event of Boris Yeltsin's leaving his post before the end of his term in 1996, it will be impossible to find worthy successors in Russia right now, or at least those who would be "equally pro-West in their inclinations and committed to democracy and capitalism" (REUTER). Hence the oft-repeated refrain, to use the words of former U.S. Secretary of State L. Eagleburger: "God knows, we all need to pray that he survives."

Fedorov Says Yeltsin 'Probably' To Attend G-7 Summit

OW1503180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Fedorov, Russia's Vice-Premier, believes that President Boris Yeltsin will probably attend the Tokyo summit of the G-7. He told INTERFAX this in an exclusive interview following his meeting with representatives of the group in Hong Kong.

"In my view, Boris Yeltsin is certain to be invited to Tokyo. The president must by all means go there," Fedorov said. The vice-premier remarked that the very fact of an invitation to Hong Kong can be viewed as a symbol of the G-7's backing for the Russian president and his government.

He said that the Hong Kong meeting had discussed the Russian situation and ways to help the country. A

decision had been made not to make public the proposals made there, Fedorov said.

According to the vice-premier, the G-7 representatives "were alarmed with the political situation as it unfolded at the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies." Fedorov told them that "there is no reason to be hysterical about it, nothing has been irretrievably lost."

The next stage is important, the vice-premier thinks. The situation will deteriorate if the legislators start repealing the president's decisions or demanding removal of ministers. "For practical purposes no dramatic changes will occur unless real hostilities start. If this does not happen, if the parliament is content with a purely moral triumph, the government will be capable to work," the vice-premier noted.

On the decision adopted by the Congress that the heads of the Central Bank, Statistical Board, the Pension Fund, and other bodies which used to be controlled by the Supreme Soviet alone must be included into the government, Fedorov said that "even this concession is a positive sign."

He said that if he is told to supervise the Central Bank of Russia, the Bank will find it "more difficult to pursue the policy it is waging now."

Commentary on Hong Kong Meeting on Aid to Moscow

OW1603093393 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese
1300 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Valentin Gorkayev commentary]

[Text] A meeting on aid to Russia has been held in Hong Kong. It made a clear summing up on aid to Russia and reached a general agreement on the aid. This represents Western nations' intention to provide aid that Russia badly needs and also their indecision about how effectively they should provide the aid to Russia. Nonetheless, ways to determine what sort of aid and how it should be provided to Russia has already begun. In particular, Deputy Foreign Minister Matsuura has announced that Japan would soon begin studying a new aid program for Russia. U.S. President Clinton has expressed his unhappiness over the amount of aid to Russia by the Western industrial powers and stated as follows: If the seven industrial powers adopt more clear-cut aid policies for Russia after coordinating their views on aid, this would help create a consensus among the Russians on reforms. My view is that the seven industrial powers can do a lot to bring a bright future to Russia.

According to reports, President Clinton will hold talks with Russian President Yeltsin in Vancouver, Canada, from 3 to 4 April. During the talks, President Clinton is expected to make a concrete U.S. Government commitment on aid to Russia.

The sherpas meeting on aid to Russia was held in Hong Kong when the Congress of People's Deputies was in session. A sharp political confrontation at the session affected the sherpas' meeting to some extent and one Western leader after another issued statements expressing support for President Yeltsin. Despite this political confrontation, there are no reasons to take a pessimistic view of the Russian situation. Among other things, President Yeltsin himself has announced that he would devote himself to reforms that are under way in Russia and it is apparent that the Russian Government is coming to grips with reforms. Reformists in Russia, however, point to the possibility that if the living standards of the Russians continue to fall, they may put the brakes on the reforms. Russia is in need of aid from the Western nations to escape this situation. For example, it is now unable to pay more than \$3.5 billion in annual repayments of its external debts and hopes that the repayment of its external debts will be rescheduled. Russia is still unable to sell its products in Western markets and its products are discriminated against. The removal of that discrimination alone could greatly improve the financial situation in Russia. Let us now stop debating how effectively the aid should be provided to Russia. The Western nations are working on plans for aid to Russia. What is important is that they take into account what the Russians desire and I hope that they will actually do that. If the Western nations cooperate together with Russia, a nation abundant in natural resources, they would benefit a lot from that cooperation.

Japan Seeks 'Pragmatic' G-7 Compromise on Aid

PM1603101193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Mar 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "ASAHI: Hang in There, Russia! Western Support for Reforms in Russia Compels Tokyo To Change Its Diplomatic Guidelines"]

[Text] The Hong Kong meeting of the G7 leaders' personal representatives last weekend and President Clinton's new calls in support of Yeltsin against the backdrop of the escalation of the confrontation in the Russian political leadership are compelling Tokyo to abandon its passive, do-nothing tactics and necessitating active measures, options for which are being hastily worked out in the Japanese capital.

Two upcoming events are spurring Japanese diplomacy—Prime Minister Miyazawa's planned April visit to the United States and the meeting of G-7 foreign and finance ministers. Both require a clear stance emphasizing a commitment to the "Western cause" and unequivocally indicating Japan's readiness to take on part of the burden of assistance for the Russian reforms.

The extremely well-informed NIHON KEIZAI notes that we are talking about a pretty sizable "package" featuring rescheduling of the foreign debt, assistance in stabilizing the ruble, a credit "fillip" for market measures, and a great deal else. The newspaper writes that a recent letter which Clinton sent to Miyazawa mentioned

among a number of specific examples additional assistance in building a special \$10 billion fund to help unemployed Russians, one-third of which, according to the American plan, should be funded by Japan. To this should also be added the not completely released \$24 billion promised to Russia by last year's Munich G-7 summit, which was also to be shared by the United States, the EC, and Japan. As far as is known, the United States is proposing that this money be discussed at bilateral level between the G-7 members and Moscow.

Even if we ignore the large numbers, the very principle which emerges in the "matter of aid" is at variance with the "fundamental principles" of Japanese relations with Russia—no direct aid or assistance (except emergency humanitarian aid) until the territorial question is resolved. To avoid being "excluded from the Western club" Tokyo is now trying to convince its G-7 partners, first and foremost the United States, to first elaborate a unified Western aid concept and then "pass it down" to the bilateral level as a coordinated common policy. With this option, Tokyo believes, Japan would manage to avoid contradicting its established principle of the indivisibility of politics and economics in relations with Russia—at the bilateral level Tokyo would be operating not on its own account but within a G-7 framework, as it were, which substantially changes matters as far as the Japanese are concerned.

It is this compromise proposal that Hisashi Owada, Japanese special envoy with the rank of deputy foreign minister, is taking to Washington this week. If his mission is a success the Japanese prime minister will fly to the United States with an identical scheme to "consolidate" the accord.

It is worth noting that the G-7's radical (albeit somewhat belated) shift on the Russian situation is compelling official Tokyo to be pragmatic but is not capable of breaking its traditional negativism vis-a-vis Russia. As NIHON KEIZAI notes, there is a view in Japanese Foreign Ministry circles that the G-7 partners' concerns are somewhat exaggerated, that it is not a foregone conclusion that Russia would go conservative without Yeltsin, and so forth. Although the mass media—and this also needs to be noted—are unequivocal in expressing their sympathetic attitude to fragile Russian democracy: On Monday [15 March], for example, one of Japan's biggest newspapers, ASAHI, carried an editorial headlined "Hang in There, Russia!"

Japan Unenthusiastic About Aid for Russia

PM1603111993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 93 p 3

[N. Tsvetkov report: "If the Patient Is Dying Let Him Die"]

[Text] Tokyo—"If the patient is dying, let him die." That, you will remember, is what the Gogol character said. By all accounts that is also what our Japanese friends are saying on the question of giving financial aid to the Russian Federation. This philosophical approach

stood out quite starkly at the meeting in Hong Kong where the "sherpas"—the authorized representatives of the leaders of the seven leading industrialized nations—were in conference.

This year it is Japan's turn to host the summit. That is why the chairman of the meeting of the "sherpas" was a Japanese—Koichiro Matsuura, the deputy foreign minister. The main theme of the meeting was the question of urgent aid to Russia. This was not a Japanese initiative, of course. To put it mildly, Japan does not like this theme. The alarm is being sounded by the other G-7 members and Russia itself, of course. In Hong Kong it was Vice Premier Boris Fedorov who played the part of the herald proclaiming Russia's need. The question was put quite starkly: The G-7 must quickly and resolutely demonstrate support for the course of reforms being pursued by the Russian president. Furthermore, as Boris Fedorov put it, the volume of the aid is less important than the fact that the aid is seen to be given.

Japan is considered the most affluent member of the "club of seven" and is obviously expected to provide these most visible steps, which, as you might well imagine, the thrifty Japanese are not happy about. Nor are they at all enthusiastic about the idea of bringing the date of the summit forward on the grounds that Russian democracy cannot wait until July. The Japanese do not want to hold the summit before July. They have to hold the wedding of the crown prince first (it is scheduled for 3 July).

The "sherpas" have agreed to continue the discussion on the concrete forms, dates, and volume of the aid. But for the time being that is all.

Yeltsin's Office Notes Report on Japan's Stand on Aid

OW1603114993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121
GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A representative of the Russian president's staff, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that Russia "has not failed to notice the report, circulated recently by the Kyodo Tsushin agency, about Japan's plans not to link the G-7's joint efforts to render economic aid to Russia with the territorial issue. [quotation marks as received]

Grachev Meets With NATO Supreme Allied Commander

LD1503132493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar—"Relations between the Russian Armed Forces and the North Atlantic Alliance are strengthening in all areas. We are achieving increasing mutual understanding and finding ever new paths for

joint actions, especially through carrying out peace-making missions," Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, stated today at a meeting with Admiral Paul Miller, supreme allied commander of NATO Atlantic Forces.

Noting the intensiveness of contacts between representatives of the top military leadership of Russia and NATO, Grachev stated his intention to take part in the next sitting of the NATO Council in Brussels on 29 March, at the invitation of NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner. For his part, Admiral Miller stressed that this visit will provide additional opportunities to exchange views and for the two sides' stances on topical issues of military policy to be brought closer together. He passed on to Pavel Grachev greetings from Woerner and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces, who voiced "support for the spirit of cooperation and friendship" between the Armed Forces of Russia and NATO.

Miller, who is also commander of the U.S. Navy in the Atlantic, is in Russia on an official visit at the invitation of Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy. This morning they had their first working meeting. The Russian military commander drew the American admiral's attention to the fact that although there has been a thaw in relations between Russia and NATO, the intensiveness of exercises by the North Atlantic alliance's naval forces remains great. During the conversation, matters relating to the prevention of incidents in naval combat training areas were also discussed.

"We welcome the development of relations between naval seamen of Russia and the NATO countries. Not only on land, but also at sea we have many common tasks which we should tackle for the sake of peace and a calm life for all peoples," said Grachev.

Tomorrow, Miller will meet with Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Committee on issues of defense and security, and with Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. He will fly to St. Petersburg the same day.

Troops in Serbia Said Victim of Propaganda

PM1503104593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
12 Mar 93 First Edition p 4

[Yevgeniy Vostrukhov and Nikolay Yermolovich article: "Notoriety of Russian 'Blue Helmets' Is Trump Card of Anti-Serbian Propaganda"]

[Excerpts] Moscow-Belgrade—IZVESTIYA has already written about the campaign mounted in the world press against the Russian battalion of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia. Articles on this topic have been carried in THE WASHINGTON POST and Britain's SUNDAY TIMES. It is significant that they appeared at almost the same time the "blue helmets" mandate was expiring and their commander's replacement was expected.

You get the impression that the authors of these articles retold, without any verification, the contents of many articles in the newspaper GLAS SLAVONIJE, published in the Croatian city of Osijek. They are a typical example of anti-Serbian propaganda. If anything distinguishes them from the previous ones, it is only the desire to play the "Russian card." This was the bait that Western journalists fell for. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent has visited the headquarters of the eastern sector in Erdut and also the location of a Belgian and the Russian battalion. These two battalions comprise the sector's forces and serve at crossing points on the demarcation line, on roads, and at control points in cities and villages. The Belgians consider that their Russian colleagues observe the same neutrality toward the local population as everyone else. But it is perfectly natural that, by virtue of the similarity of the languages, the Russians more frequently enter into conversation with the local population—Croats, Serbs, Ruthenians, Ukrainians.

Now about the specific facts cited in the articles. It is claimed that the Russians opened up depots in their charge, where the heavy armament of Serbian formations was kept, and distributed it to the Serbs. There were no problems with the weapons in the depots until 22 January—the day the Croatian army attacked the territory of the southern sector. Fearing a general Croatian offensive, in the afternoon of 22 January the government of Serbian Krajina announced mobilization throughout the territory, opened the depots, and distributed the weapons. At our request a high-ranking Russian diplomat commented on this situation: "When 200-300 men armed to the teeth approach two sentries guarding a weapons depot and ask to be given the key to it, there are not very many options for resisting." Incidentally, all the depots being supervised by the Belgians were "unsealed." Of the 18 being guarded by Russians, they still managed to hang on to two.

With regard to speculation in gasoline and other goods by our servicemen, nowhere are there any officially recorded facts of such violations. "We permitted the refueling of the vehicles of two Yugoslav Army officers who maintain official contacts with the sector, in conformity with an accord," IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told by Major General Yu. Sosedov, commander of the eastern sector. Gen. Sosedov and Battalion Commander L. Arshinov also reported that, after the first group of forces left for home last fall, 12 bulletproof vests were found to be missing. On the initiative of our command the military prosecutor's office instituted criminal proceedings.

In order to get away from our "own" witnesses, who are undoubtedly decent and impartial people but nonetheless our "own," we asked A. Shalnev, our correspondent in the United States, to ask the UN Headquarters to comment on the article in THE WASHINGTON POST. A high-ranking employee of the UN Secretariat, who wished to remain anonymous, told the correspondent the

following: "There is some truth in THE WASHINGTON POST article, but there are also exaggerations. Since this is the first time Russian troops have participated in such operations, certain elements of their training and instruction cannot be considered ideal. But the Russian authorities are extremely understanding of the problems which arise in this connection and which we certainly do not consider insurmountable."

And the final point. "Last year," THE WASHINGTON POST writes, "Serbian servicemen even presented a Russian colonel with the latest model of a white Mercedes-Benz, eyewitnesses reported, despite UN regulations prohibiting the acceptance of such gifts." What can you say here?... Let us cite, maybe, a popular saying which maintains that no one lies so much as eyewitnesses.

So, the honor of Colonel Viktor Loginov, commander of the battalion's first complement, has been impugned. According to his fellow servicemen, he is a man with high professional and moral qualities.

Last September the colonel and his comrades in arms succeeded in averting a tragedy—bloodshed between a thousands-strong mob of Croats, who had decided to return home at all costs, and Serbs who had risen to the defense of their "own primordial land." The Russian colonel's personal courage and his knowledge of Serbo-Croatian helped to defuse the situation at the time. But the colonel did take a white Mercedes home from Yugoslavia. He bought an old car, a 1980 model, cheaply in the local market.

But this is what really is true in the articles: The personnel of the Russian battalion have the fewest rights in the system of UN troops. Soldiers and officers frequently come under aimed fire from snipers and walk along mined roads and paths, but, unlike their foreign colleagues, none of them has even ordinary insurance. An impressive delegation from the Russian Supreme Soviet and Ministry of Defense once came and checked out the airborne troops' living conditions on the spot in order to prepare a draft law on the Russian "blue helmets." But nothing has come of this. The law has not been prepared or discussed in the Supreme Soviet, although there is increasingly frequent and loud discussion of the Yugoslav issue within the walls of parliament.

Pilots Train for Aid Airdrop in Yugoslavia

PM1503114393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Report by Aleksandr Korovkin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian pilots are getting ready to airlift humanitarian aid to the Yugoslav Federation.

Staffers of the "Polyus" Airborne Expedition Center are well known to polar workers and remote geological prospecting expeditions. In inaccessible areas, where conditions do not permit aircraft to land, the only

possibility of delivering freight is by air drop. The center has already carried out a number of unique operations in airlifting freight to drifting stations, to Antarctic winter expeditions, to geologists in Chukotka, and famine-stricken areas in Sudan.

For the first time in airborne practice, a technique for nonparachute air drops has been devised and tested here.

The wealth of experience which has been accumulated here enables Petr Zadirov, renowned parachutist and head of the center, to hope that the 250 tonnes of food will be delivered to the correct location in the Yugoslav Federation.

DPRK Case for Nonproliferation Pact Pullout Viewed

PM1503164993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 93 p 3

[Vladimir Potapov "Observer's Notes": "Squeezed..."]

[Text] On Friday the DPRK Government announced the republic's withdrawal from the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. This is no reason to rejoice. This step has elicited a stormy reaction abroad. Japan, in the person of Premier K. Miyazawa, urged North Korea to reconsider its decision and reportedly contacted Washington and Seoul on the hot line.

The surprise was probably occasioned by the boldness with which the DPRK took this extreme step, in the awareness that so-called world public opinion, manipulated by world information centers, would not side with it. Calls for "the United Nations and the international community to prepare countermeasures" are already issuing directly from the south of the Korean peninsula.

The new problem which has alarmed the world might not have happened. In fact, it does not yet exist. It is merely being prepared. Each sovereign state has the right to decide itself which treaty to subscribe to, and which not and to weigh up the consequences of this. If the world community, which is increasingly speaking with an American accent, is really interested in the DPRK's involvement in the treaty, it is necessary to take an unbiased approach to the reasons which prompted Pyongyang to reject it.

At the bottom of the conflict lie Washington's "suspensions" that work on creating nuclear weapons is supposedly being carried out in North Korea. Officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] at once responded to this with an inspection, in the course of which they attempted "incorrectly," from the hosts' viewpoint, to find out military secrets. It should not be forgotten that the DPRK is officially still at war with the "UN forces," and U.S. troops with nuclear weapons, which Pyongyang believes have no place there, are still stationed in South Korea. The DPRK has made complaints that the IAEA inspections are being used by the

United States to check the efficiency of its space reconnaissance and that the information obtained in the course of an inspection ends up in Washington and Seoul, which juridically are still at war with the DPRK.

The IAEA's targets for inspection also give rise to questions. For some reason this international organization shows no interest in the nuclear programs of, let us say, Israel or South Africa. Is this not because Washington does not request this? Now the DPRK has officially declared that it does not wish to be a "captive" of a treaty which has not justified its hopes of accelerating the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and the elimination of the nuclear threat to itself. Kang Sok-chu, the country's first vice foreign minister, has given an assurance that the DPRK does not have nuclear weapons, is not developing them, and will continue to seek to make the Korean peninsula nuclear-free.

Shokhin Says Debt Accord With Ukraine 'Likely'

OW1603165493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Ukraine are likely to sign an accord providing for the so-called 'zero sum' solution to the issue of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union. Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin said this at a meeting with journalists this Tuesday morning, pointing out that the 'zero sum' envisages Ukraine's renunciation of its share both of the assets and the liabilities of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Shokhin indicated that Moscow in approaching the final stage of its talks with the creditors' Paris Club. The primary obstacle in the talks, in the words of Mr. Shokhin, has been the unsettled foreign debt issue among the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The deputy prime minister said he was hopeful that Russia and the creditors will come up with a mutually acceptable solution of how to restructure the former Soviet Union's foreign debt. He also stated Moscow's willingness to meet the interests of Western countries halfway by increasing payments for servicing the debt in 1993 to \$3.5 Bn. [billion] (Earlier, Russian representatives contended that paying more than \$2.5 Bn for these purposes was unacceptable).

Asked what Russia is expecting from G-7 countries in anticipation of their summit in Tokyo, Aleksandr Shokhin said it would be imperative, at first, to implement the decisions of the meeting in Munich of leaders of the industrially-developed countries. In particular, he explained, it had to do with a favorable solution of Russia's foreign debt issue.

Aleksandr Shokhin also observed that an agreement in that regard with the Paris Club would indicate that the mechanism of getting Russia to participate in the G-7

meetings will not only pay off, but it will enable Russia's president to take part in the G-7 summit in Tokyo.

Grachev Reiterates 'No Involvement' Order in Abkhazia

OW1603051793 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 2230 GMT 13 Mar 93

[From the "Aty Baty" program]

[Text] [video shows Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at meeting with officers; caption in bottom right hand corner of screen reads: "Abkhazia, 26 February 1993"]

[Grachev] Once again I order that, notwithstanding the complicated internal political situation in the Abkhazia region, under no circumstances do you have the right to get involved in any military action. However, at the same time, I reiterate my order that in the event of fire or an attack on any military unit, on any objective guarded by the Russian Armed Forces, you are to take all measures to return fire against the attackers and not allow any Russian Armed Forces objective to be captured.

[Unidentified officer] Yes, Comrade Minister.

[Grachev] I categorically forbid intervention in the military action in any country's territory.

I am interested in: First, where are the regimental families living and how they are being occupied; second, are the children studying in school and are they receiving any kind of assistance.

[Officer] Schools in Gudauta have been open and functioning since November. Some of the children of officers and warrant officers are living here with their parents, and some have been left with their relatives in Russia. All officers and warrant officers are provided with housing, and some live in the former PVO [Air Defense Forces] sanatorium.

[Grachev] What is the cost?

[Officer] The cost at the sanatorium is 30 rubles per day.

Defense Ministry Says Troops on Alert in Abkhazia

OW1603120893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's troops in Abkhazia have been put on alert to repulse possible attacks on Russia's military facilities because of the renewed tension on the Georgian-Abkhaz front. Russia's defence ministry reported to Interfax on Tuesday [16 March]. At the same time, as the ministry stresses, "Russia's servicemen remain neutral".

A statement made by the defence ministry for Interfax notes that all attempts to accuse Russia of any involvement in the conflict on the Abkhaz side or charge Russia air bombardment of Georgian communities are "deliberate lies with certain political goals". Russian servicemen have nothing to do with the Abkhaz offensive on Sukhumi, nor have they taken part in planning it, the statement points out.

As for the charges of insincerity levelled by the Georgian Embassy against Russia's defence ministry over what the Georgian side alleges bombardment by Russian aircraft of the Kapitnary community of the Ochamchira region on March 12, the defence ministry repeated that "throughout March 12 not a single plane of Russia's Air Force took off in the region."

Georgian Representatives Protest Bombing of Sukhumi

OW1503181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian-Georgian talks, a new round of which started in Moscow a week ago, have been very difficult, the head of the Russian delegation, Feliks Kovalev, told INTERFAX. He said that, on Monday [15 March], the Georgians expressed their protest in connection with the bombing of Sukhumi by Su-25 aircraft on March 12.

Letters of protest from the Georgian Defense Ministry and the pro-Georgian government of Abkhazia were handed in to Kovalev by the head of the Georgian delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleba.

Kovalev said the letters would be forwarded to the Russian Defense Ministry, which should explain what had happened and respond to Georgia's accusations.

The Russian delegation, in turn, complained to the Georgian delegation about offenses committed against Russian troops stationed in Georgia.

Kovalev doubts, however, that the bombing of Sukhumi will make any changes in the delegations' schedule, which covers a period until March 17 inclusive.

He said in this connection that several important documents had already been agreed on, including ones on the transportation of military personnel.

Communication Cooperation Accord Signed With Lithuania

LD1503175893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1742 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Gordeyev]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Russian and Lithuanian ministers for communication signed an agreement on principles and conditions of cooperation in the field of communication. The document will serve to promote mutually beneficial cooperation and guarantee smooth functioning of electrical and postal communication services between the two countries.

At the same time the ministers agreed to work out legal foundations for Russian and Lithuanian communication services to sign direct agreements on cooperation and mutual payments.

According to Vladimir Bulgak, Russian minister for communication, this agreement is of particular significance to Kaliningrad region.

Eighth Congress of People's Deputies

Russian Ambassador to U.S. on Eighth Congress

OW1503133593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Studio interview with Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, people's deputy and Russian ambassador to the United States, by Aleksandr Panov and Tatyana Vedeneyeva; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Panov] Once more we turn to politics in our morning program. Our guest is Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, Russian people's deputy and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the United States. He has arrived from Washington to attend the congress. Vladimir Petrovich, what are your impressions of the first day of the congress? Do you think that may be it was a waste of time?

[Lukin] Nothing in this world can be considered a waste of time if we draw some conclusions from it. I would say that if we consider its style, the congress began basically as I expected it to, while in terms of content I think it was somewhat better than I expected. Well the style is the way it is because, as you know, we get what we deserve. Now as far as the content is concerned, I would say that it did not conclude with a happy ending; it was a rather vague conclusion with fairly distinct efforts aimed at further splintering power rather than bonding it.

It is good that this one-sided resolution was not adopted. I think that today's session will proceed on the basis of some compromise resolution. The question of who should be a member of the conciliatory commission was debated for a long time. Goodness, is it really so important who will be in it and in what capacity? People should reach agreement, that is important. Do you really think it is important for people in what capacity the deputies will participate in? It is important for people to know that agreement has been reached and that work will be done, that economic issues will finally be addressed, and that the situation we are in will be brought into the open.

[Panov] Vladimir Petrovich, to what extent were you able to follow this situation and the strategic maneuvers of various sides on the eve of the congress, the atmosphere which we had here, from your distant post in Washington? To what extent was it covered in the U.S. media?

[Lukin] I think you are exaggerating a little how remote I really am in Washington. The fact is that I work in Russia, on Russian territory, and 16 hours a day I work for Russia. I am in constant contact with our authorities, our government, with deputies, and so forth, and I am generally aware of how things stand. Things are not too good. There is a lot of political infighting, but people want to eat. They should be pulling together, not engaging in fisticuffs, trying to get the upper hand.

[Vedeneyeva] Vladimir Petrovich, recently Nixon reported to Clinton on his visit to our country. Do you have any information yet about the reaction of official Washington or of the public in general to what is going on here, particularly the reaction to the congress?

[Lukin] Well Tanya, first of all I would like to say that one should not exaggerate anybody's reaction abroad, particularly that of Washington. They will not save us and they will not ruin us. There is only one force capable of saving or ruining us, and that is ourselves, you and I. And that is what we are successfully doing, ruining ourselves more than saving ourselves.

Of course this does not mean that we are indifferent to what is happening in the world. The world is interdependent and of course much depends on many countries, and primarily on such a strong and powerful country as the United States. In this sense I would put it this way: There are great fears about the path we are following, whether or not we will move away from democracy. Now I want to note once again that it is we who need democracy, not they. Sometimes it seems that they are pulling us by the ears into democracy while we kick and scream and go against our will. Why would anybody want to suddenly drag you or I or anybody else for that matter off to Potma simply for saying the wrong thing?

We, not the Americans, need democracy. That is why we see eye to eye with them here, simply because they have 200 years of experience during which nobody has dragged them off to Potma, or rather Alaska, or some other place. We agree with them on this, but we agree because this corresponds with our interests, the interests of everyone of us. It is another matter whether or not everyone of us understands this. So this is why they are most concerned on this score. They are very concerned. At the same time, to a great extent, rightly or not, they personify our democratic development with our president and to some extent with our government and to a lesser degree with our parliament, although here they have a number of questions.

They are beginning to more realistically understand that the battle in our country is far from being confined to the struggle between reactionaries, who oppose reforms, and those clean people, so to speak, who are fully for reforms. They are beginning to understand that there are various paths and various rates of movement. They are starting to discern this, which previously they did not.

As far as Clinton is concerned personally, well, he is full of good intentions, but the previous administration was full of good intentions too! They make promises just as well as we do, maybe even better. So the problem apparently is what lies behind this in reality? Here I cannot give you an answer. Only the meeting in Vancouver will be able to answer this question.

[Panov] Yes, particularly since you already said at the beginning that the United States will not save us, that only we ourselves can save us.

[Lukin] Or not save us?

[Panov] Or not save us. Another word from U.S. political life is the word impeachment or no confidence in the President. A certain part of the opposition is planning to raise this issue in the congress.

[Lukin] Well, I think this will not happen. First of all because this depends on the congress, not only on some deputies. The congress can adopt a petition to the Constitutional Court....

[Panov, interrupting] Yes, the Constitutional Court....

[Lukin, continuing]...concerning the constitutionality of any actions of the president. This petition would be reviewed by the Constitutional Court and if the verdict of the Constitutional Court is positive—I mean positive in the sense that some constitutional principles have been seriously violated—then this would return to the congress. I do not think that this procedure will take place, at least not in the near future, but the question of violation of constitutionality by all branches of the executive, rather state power will be subject to very sharp scrutiny.

[Panov] On the eve of the congress, apparently alarmed by our disarray and by the situation here—you have just outlined it—you sent a message to Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn. The answer you received was published in some newspapers. Nevertheless many of our television viewers do not know what Solzhenitsyn's response was or the main import of his message.

[Lukin] It was not so much a response as his understanding of the situation and an understanding of what the deputies and the president ought to be doing. In my opinion, it is a very important and serious letter, but I would rather not comment on it in detail because it is unlikely that anyone could express in words what is in his heart better than Aleksandr Isayevich, and if I comment on this it will simply be worse.

In essence, as I understood him, he says: Let us stop thinking about our own power today, tomorrow, and so forth on the ruins of the country. Think about Russia's destiny. If you think about Russia's destiny, constructive ideas will come to mind. Russia's destiny is the fate of a country which has never known real democracy. We must prepare for democracy from the grass-roots level. Experience shows that this kind of preparation can proceed only in conditions of strong—taking Russia's experience into consideration—personalized power, abrogating however any possibility of that which we have already witnessed....

[Panov, interrupting] A return to all kinds of....

[Lukin, continuing] ... all kinds of arbitrary rule.

[Panov] I would like to conclude our conversation with these very wise words. Unfortunately our morning program has its limits. Let us hope for a better future.

[Lukin] Maybe this time the evening will be wiser for the morning.

[Panov] Maybe.

[Lukin] Thank you.

[Panov] Thank you. Good luck in your work at the congress and in your ambassadorial job.

[Lukin] We will try. Please visit us.

Deputy Scores Khasbulatov at 11 March Session

PM1603094193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
13 Mar 93 First Edition p 2

[Speech by Legislation Committee Deputy Chairman B. Zolotukhin at 11 March sitting of Eighth Congress of Russian People's Deputies: "Post of Supreme Soviet Chairman Should Be Abolished"]

[Text] Esteemed Deputies. Today, within the context of a discussion on this question, the president has already been criticized, the government has already been criticized, and the Supreme Soviet has already been criticized. Is it not time we took a shot at the Supreme Soviet chairman? I believe we have every reason to do this, because the Supreme Soviet chairman, having formulated the position and the concept of the power of the Supreme Soviet chairman, intends in contravention of the Constitution to appropriate for himself the powers to lead the entire Supreme Soviet, to lead the Congress of People's Deputies, and to lead us all—the people's plenipotentiary representatives.

It was 21 August last year that the Supreme Soviet chairman issued a directive via which he violated Article 115 of the Russian Federation Constitution, which outlines the chairman's powers with the utmost clarity. The Supreme Soviet chairman's powers boil down exclusively to the fact that he prepares questions and offers assistance in preparing questions for examination at the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet. Article 115 of the Constitution invests the Supreme Soviet chairman with absolutely no authoritative powers in respect of the Congress, in respect of the Supreme Soviet, or in respect of the chambers, committees, and people's deputies.

Despite this, in the directive I have mentioned the Supreme Soviet Chairman endowed himself with the powers to lead the Supreme Soviet. What does the concept "to lead" signify? To lead means to run, to be in charge of. Thus, via the aforementioned decree the Supreme Soviet chairman appointed himself director, manager of the Supreme Soviet. I believe that we have no grounds for agreeing with such an interpretation of the concept of the Supreme Soviet chairman's power.

In this very same directive the Supreme Soviet chairman entrusted his deputies with specific powers. Article 115 of the Constitution states that the Supreme Soviet

chairman can transfer part of his functions to his deputies. But it is quite obvious that he cannot invest his deputies with those functions and powers of which he himself does not dispose. Nevertheless, in the aforementioned directive the chairman entrusted his deputies with the duty to lead a number of committees and commissions—and this is not only in violation of the Constitution, it is also in violation of the law on commissions and committees. It is perfectly obvious that the chairman and his deputies cannot direct the work of either the chambers, the committees, or the commissions. These are autonomous deputies' formations comprising plenipotentiary representatives of the people whom nobody is entitled to direct, lead, or order about, apart from their own electorate. In this very same directive the Supreme Soviet chairman decided that he has the right to distribute powers among representatives of the chambers. Meanwhile, in accordance with the Constitution, the chairman exercises no powers in respect of the chairmen of the chambers, and the chairmen of the chambers themselves have only certain powers—to be in charge of the internal running of the chambers. As my time has run out, I submit the following proposal: To amend the Constitution with a view to abolishing the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet, while preserving the posts of chairmen of the chambers.

Officials Comment on, View Congress Outcome

Yeltsin Studying 'Damage'

LD1503172093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By correspondent Perfiliev on talk to journalists by Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov in Moscow on 15 March; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Perfiliev] The results of the work of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies inspire profound misgivings, Russian Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said in the Kremlin today when talking to correspondents of Ostankino information television agency, Rossiyskiye Vesti, and REUTER.

[Kostikov, addressing journalists] The president's hopes that the congress would manage to resolve the constitutional crisis and achieve, at last, the delimitation of the executive and the representative powers—unfortunately, these hopes have not come true. In a purposeful and tough manner, the congress rejected the possibility of an agreed solution to the country's power crisis. Its decisions have exacerbated even further the imbalance of powers and threatened, in fact, the Russian state system and order in our country. Moreover, I believe that by denying the people the right to hold a referendum, the congress in fact banned the people from expressing themselves, thus taking the path of direct confrontation with both the people and the legally elected president of Russia.

The work of the congress revealed that the congress had no intention of reaching any kind of equilibrium. Conversely, the congress intentionally wanted to gain one-sided concessions in its favor, that is, to concentrate even further the power in the hands of the soviets.

In essence, continuing the logic of the congress and of the speeches that were made there, the question is of returning to the reign of the communist nomenklatura. This was an attempt to claw back the democratic gains of August 1991. I would like to draw your attention even to the concluding remarks of Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, who, when saying good bye to the delegates, told them to propagate the decisions of the congress and hold conferences in the provinces. This amounts in effect to a covert call for the pro-communist, soviet leaders in the provinces to seize power in the localities.

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is deeply concerned about the threat which hangs over democracy and the future of the reform. The president is receiving numerous telegrams, letters, and appeals, communications from the localities, from working collectives, and kray and oblast administrations, urging him to take decisive measures to prevent a reversal of the reforms, and to defend the democracy which the Russian people have won in harsh struggle against the communist nomenklatura regime.

The president is now studying the extent of the political damage which the decisions of the congress have inflicted upon the constitutional system of the Russian Federation. This morning I spoke to Boris Nikolayevich and he said he had spent the weekend out of town, in deep and, I believe, even painful thought, thinking of Russia's destiny. He may meet his closest associates later today; in the next few days he will convene the Presidential Council, and after this, I believe, he will take a decision.

Fedorov's Remarks Noted

PM1603114393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 93 First Edition p 2

[Vasily Kononenko report: "The Government Will Fight for Reforms to the Bitter End"]

[Text] "The vast majority of government members intend to pursue only the policy which chosen by us and confirmed by Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin at the Eighth Congress. We will not blindly carry out anybody's will if it fails to correspond to the interests of the state"—this is how Vice Premier B. Fedorov defined the Russian Federation Government's position in the light of the confrontational situation which took shape on the second day of work of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies.

Answering a question from IZVESTIYA's correspondent on how far the government will go in battling for the reforms, the vice premier stressed that it could be Congress decisions which would make the executive

power unable to function. If such professional economists and practitioners as A. Chubays, V. Shumeyko, A. Shokhin, and S. Shakhrai are removed from the government, the chances for real achievements in the economy will verge on zero. But my position is this: The government should fight to the bitter end.

Much attention was devoted to the problem of mutual relations between the government and the Central Bank. B. Fedorov said: "I have always been in favor of the Central Bank's being independent. But now we have run up against a situation where the Central Bank is striving to be the State Bank, maybe because it has an old-guard leadership [yevo rukovodstvo staroye]. In no country of the world does the government have to tell national or central banks that they are obliged to fight for the stability of the national currency."

"The government is partly to blame for the rise in the level of inflation," the vice premier continued. "But who has once heard Mr. Gerashchenko protest against unjustified actions by the government or the Supreme Soviet, or expound proposals to strengthen the financial system? The matter has already gone as far as foul play. According to Internal Affairs Ministry figures, 400 billion rubles [R] have been pilfered via falsified letters of advice. Some R500 billion have been exported to CIS countries virtually free of charge. International organizations estimate that as a result of unjustified credits to these states, the unequal exchange of goods, and various other factors, Russia subsidized Commonwealth countries to the tune of \$18 billion last year. In other words, 25 percent of 'our inflation' is brought about by 'unregulated' relations with these countries. The government has prepared a draft presidential edict to limit credits to CIS countries. But here too parliament has the deciding word."

B. Fedorov announced that the anti-inflationary measures elaborated by the government include: cutting various kinds of subsidy and revising a number of budget items; stabilizing the currency market; strengthening import and export controls; and granting Central Bank credits to commercial banks at interest rates no lower than the market rates. As for aid from the "Big Seven," in the vice premier's words a memorandum was sent to these countries the crux of which boils down not to sums of money, but to the elaboration of mechanisms for effective aid, including proffering assistance in small-scale credits—the offer of credits to those wishing to get involved in entrepreneurial activity, the creation of jobs, social support in conditions of a tough credit policy, conversion, and settling the problem of debts.

Kozyrev Comments

LD1603084693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is sure that the outcome of the Eighth Congress of Russian People's Deputies has not weakened Boris Yeltsin. Speaking to correspondents in Helsinki, he also gave the

assurance that Russia remains a strong and democratic partner and that nobody should panic about recent events in Moscow.

Rumyantsev on 'Political Crisis'

OW1503144193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] From the point of view of constitutional development, nothing harmful happened at the recent Congress of People's Deputies, though the political crisis deepened, according to statements by Russian People's Deputy and Constitutional Commission Executive Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev at a Monday [15 March] press conference in Moscow.

He called the allotment of legislative initiative to the government at the Congress "constitutionally justified and politically smart." Rumyantsev said further that "it was not bad" that the powers of the president had been decreased somewhat. "You can't have reform depend on the subjective views of one person," said the deputy.

Rumyantsev noted that the president lacked "a familiar circle of advisors," which in his opinion was an additional argument in favor of giving the government the right to independent legislative initiative.

He said that one of the negative results of the Congress was the emerging crisis of federalism. "Russia may turn into a second CIS if its political leaders continued to use the autonomous republics to back their personal opinions," said Rumyantsev.

The deputy also called for there to be early presidential and parliamentary elections be held simultaneously in the event that a resolution was passed on the subject. "Otherwise," said Rumyantsev, "Different political forces may control different political bodies, and then we will have returned to our starting point."

Rumyantsev Assesses Congress 'Positively'

LD1503160393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1457 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Oleg Rumyantsev, senior secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Commission, said today at a meeting with Russian and foreign journalists that "from the viewpoint of the development of Russian society" the results of the eighth Congress of People's Deputies can, on the whole, be assessed "positively." Among the positive results of the Congress he mentioned the widening of the powers of the Council of Ministers. He said: "We cannot make the fate of reform dependent on one man, not even a president elected by all of the people."

We have been in too much of hurry, he said, "to create in Russia a superpresidential republic in which the president is both head of state and head of the government." He feels that collegial rule suits Russia better; "its functions could be undertaken by a government with wide powers, headed by a premier who would have a political face of his own."

Among the negative results of the forum Oleg Rumyantsev included the fact that the Congress worsened the crisis of federalism in Russia. He accused the Supreme Soviet of encouraging disintegration by "not giving a single principled assessment of the anticonstitutional legislative acts passed in the localities." The president and government, Rumyantsev considers, have also promoted the disintegrative processes, by "taking the path of financially bribing particular regions and republics of the Russian Federation."

Rumyantsev sees the way out of the present political crisis in immediately bringing all legislative acts at federal and local level into line with the present Constitution. Unless this is done within three months, the Constitutional Court, he thinks, "must demand early elections this year to all organs of power of the Russian Federation."

Central Bank Official Comments

OW1503195593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The decision of the 8th Congress of People's Deputies of Russia that the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] president may be made a Cabinet member will improve coordination between the CBR and the government. Chairman of the parliamentary Planning and Budget Commission Aleksandr Pochinok has told IF [INTERFAX].

He says that from now on the government and the Central Bank will be coordinating the necessary volume of credits, and the Supreme Soviet will authorize it. The Planning and Budget Commission chairman says this will help rule out a situation in which various government officials would keep asking parliament for additional credits. "Currently, parliament has 10 trillion rubles worth of such requests", Pochinok said.

In turn, CBR Deputy President Aleksandr Khandruyev has said that the bank would remain answerable to parliament and retain its independent status.

Khandruyev said the Central Bank would be coordinating its monetary and credit policies with the government, while the government would coordinate its budget policies with the CBR. "We hope that the coordination of credit and budget policies will help reduce inflation", Khandruyev said.

Reaction From Supreme Soviet Officials Noted

Khasbulatov Aide Comments

LD1503223393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A consultative conference of representatives of political parties and movements was held in Moscow on Monday [15 March]. Andrey Zenkov reports.

[Zenkov] As expected, the main question on the agenda was devoted to an assessment of the results of the Congress of Peoples Deputies and to working out a unified political stand for the near future. However, both the economy, and even a number of extractive branches of industry are indissolubly bound to politics today. This is what Aleksandr Sergeyev, chairman of the country's Independent Miners' Trade Union, said to me.

[Begin Sergeyev recording] We tried to meet Khasbulatov on the 27th. He refused to meet us, but he instructed his Deputy Voronin to meet us. We were astounded by the fact that one of Khasbulatov's right-hand men said quite openly: Soon we will end all that. It is time to stamp out those Yeltsins, those Burbulises, and those Gaydars; it is time to introduce order.

As to our demands that were put before the government and the Supreme Soviet, we have discovered that everything depends on the Supreme Soviet. The budget is approved by the Supreme Soviet, the subsidies that go to the coalmining industry are transferred through the Central Bank, and there is a black hole there—it is not known when they arrive. That is, I believe that there is a deliberate destabilization of the economy. [end recording]

[Zenkov] According to Sergeyev, the Council of Workers' Committees and the Independent Trade Union of Kuzbass Miners will hold an enlarged meeting of their representatives on Tuesday, at which they will give their assessment of the results of the congress, and to all appearances, it will coincide with the assessment of the representatives of 80 parties and movements that have gathered in Moscow: That the Supreme Soviet has usurped power.

Zlobin Issues Statement

LD1603094693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0600 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS: quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Konstantin Zlobin, press secretary of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the Russian Federation, has issued a statement on the results of the 8th Congress of People's Deputies. The statement reads as follows:

"The results of the 8th (extraordinary) Congress of People's Deputies, have generated a great interest both in this country and abroad. The Congress, the Supreme

Soviet and its chairman are receiving numerous telegrams and messages in support of the Congress results. Its resolutions, which fully restored the Constitution of the Russian Federation, have given a big boost to the role of the government in addressing economic issues and clearly defined the sphere of activity for each branch of state power.

"Commentaries in some media as well as a statement by Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president of the Russian Federation, who once again prophesies a mythical 'concentration of power in the hands of the councils' and a threat 'to the democratic achievements of the August of 1991,' look quite untactful against this background.

"I would like to note the following: It is utterly clear now that it is precisely the representative power, which operates strictly within the framework of the Constitution and not on the strength of numerous and at times mutually exclusive decrees, that is the guarantor of democratic gains and their development in Russia.

"Against this background, statements about a political damage inflicted upon the state by the representative power can be interpreted as the discontent of the president's entourage with 'the restoration of the validity of the fundamental law, which considerably narrows their resources to provide a legal cover for destructive activities'".

Ryabov Says Deputies Support Yeltsin

LD1603132993 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1220 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar—Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, stated that "the main provisions of the current Constitution are fairly effective and respond to the challenge of reforming the society." "Statements that the current Constitution is pro-communist are blatant lies," he said in an address to the all-Russian seminar of "Znaniye" society lecturers which opened in Moscow today.

"As a matter of fact, practically nothing has remained from the old constitution," he stressed. The presidency was introduced, alongside with new judicial reforms, changes in articles related to rights and freedoms of Russian Federation citizens, and, last, the Federation Treaty.

The deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet described as speculative and provocative the attempts of certain politicians to jettison the "Give us a referendum!" slogan. The parliament member believes that, given the current "referendum law," it would be a contravention of the Federation Treaty to hold a referendum in the present sociopolitical environment.

Nikolay Ryabov stated that by and large the deputies support the Russian Federation president. To substantiate this, he stated that parliament "did not adopt a

no-lose path"—i.e. letting the president hold the referendum, so that he would be forced to resign if he lost. "The Eighth Congress has chosen the only right option—to build the rule-of-law democratic state on the basis of the Constitution alone," Nikolay Ryabov stated.

The deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet favors granting all political parties and movements free and equal access to the mass media. "It is unacceptable that one person should monopolize the mass media," he stressed.

Deputies Seek Review of Resolutions

OW1503194393 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1926 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fifty-seven people's deputies of the Russian Federation have asked the Constitutional Court to inquire into the legality of resolutions by the Congress of People's Deputies. The daily "IZVESTIYA" says the motion concerns the Congress's resolution "On Measures To Carry Out the Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation" and a number of amendments to the Constitution. The signatories to the message argue that the resolutions run counter to the delimitation of the powers of legislative, executive and judicial authorities established by the Constitution. "IZVESTIYA" says the people's deputies have pointed to the fact that the Congress added to Article 121 of the Russian Constitution a special clause saying that the powers of the Russian President can be terminated immediately. The lawmakers say this violates articles of the Constitution which state that the president is elected by the people and can be dismissed only in the case of him violating the Constitution, laws or his oath. The authors of the message say that a number of resolutions of the Congress should be recognized as unconstitutional and running counter to the delimitation of powers.

Abdulatipov Grants Interview

LD1603025593

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2030 GMT on 15 March carries the "Referendum" program, which features a 15-minute interview with Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, with an unidentified interviewer. The place of the interview is not given.

Asked for his reaction to the outcome of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies, Abdulatipov states that "a law-based democratic potential for creating a new Russian society" and "the potential for common sense and creation" are being built up, although it is almost impossible to sum up the results. He stresses how many legislative acts were passed, the most important of which is the Federation Treaty. He speaks about a qualitative

growth in the role played at the congress by the subjects of the Russian Federation, saying:

"I would even say that at this Congress it was precisely the republics, krais, oblasts, and national autonomies which did in fact save the Russian Federation, in many of its parameters, from possible disintegration. It is very noteworthy that today it is no longer necessary to persuade our regions about strengthening the integrity of Russia. The time has come when the republics and the regions are persuading the federal center, the federal center with its contradictions, not to cause the disintegration of the Russian Federation."

He goes on to note: "The most important issue that we were forced to submit to that extraordinary congress was the issue of the referendum and the issue of the decision adopted at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies." He says that although some kind of accord was reached, "one feels that this accord does not help us out, but starts to threaten our constitutional system to an even greater extent."

Abdulatipov mentions his speech at the congress, in which he stated that it is "very dangerous to hold a referendum in the present conditions, but if one is to hold it, then it must be ahead-of-schedule elections for both the deputy corps and the president." According to Abdulatipov, the congress returned to this subject due to pressure exercised by the subjects of the Russian Federation. He says: "It seems to me that it is precisely the president, those surrounding the president, who are most of all not interested in the strategic elements of creating Russian society, but in tactical elements." He stresses that no one gains by confrontation and that the main issue, that of Russian statehood, is being ignored.

Regarding the constitution, Abdulatipov states that its essence has been changed by amendments. He emphasizes the need for convincing policies that will be understood by the people and the fact that everyone should be grateful to the people for remaining loyal to the integrity of the Russian Federation. He states that the work at the center is a threat to the integrity of the Russian Federation and cites complaints about representatives and actions that are not completely thought out. He talks about the split in Russian society and disputes over powers but not responsibilities.

Abdulatipov speaks about the behavior of the sides at the congress and the beneficial influence of Chernomyrdin. He then says: "I observe that in Russian society a process of creation is going on from the bottom; this is strengthening reform. While we are arguing, this reform is beginning to yield some kind of results." He concludes by stating his confidence that Russian society will achieve democracy but that if politicians cannot help at a given stage, they should not hamper this process.

Other Reaction to, Support for Congress, President

Kuzbass Miners Criticize Congress

PM1503140593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
13 Mar 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Viktor Kostyukovskiy report: "Kuzbass Miners Put Forward Political Demands"]

[Text] Kemerovo—A sitting of the Independent Miners' Union [IMU] Council of Representatives and the Council of Kuzbass Workers' Committees has taken place in the mining city of Kiselevsk. A decision to prepare for a general Kuzbass-wide strike of coal enterprises was adopted.

It was decided to coordinate these activities with the workers movement in the country's other coal regions. The decree notes that the Russian Federation Government has taken specific steps to resolve the coal regions' problems—a statute on social security for IMU members and a wages agreement have been signed, work is under way to elaborate a mechanism for subsidizing the sector's enterprises, and a commission to work out a program for developing the coal industry in market conditions is operating. Nevertheless, the document stresses that there are no guarantees that even the agreements which have been reached with the government will be honored. The fault lies with the policy being pursued by the Supreme Soviet, which boils down to the following: The Supreme Soviet is preoccupied with trying to acquire for itself the functions of executive power without safeguarding the legislative base for government work, as a result of which it, too, is in fact non-functional.

In the political statement, the IMU Council of Representatives and the Council of Kuzbass Workers' Committees described the Congress of People's Deputies as fundamentally reactionary. The statement notes: "The purpose of convening the Congress is clear—to consolidate the results of the constitutional coup effected at the Seventh Congress... The desire for absolute power of the soviets, and the supremacy of the Congress—that is, the monopoly of legislative power—is plain to see. Reactionary forces are gambling on the difficulties of the transition period, deluding the people. It is an enormous lie that a transition period can be painless and that reform can produce positive results immediately. No state has ever conducted reform without a drop in the people's living standards."

The statement lists demands addressed to the Congress, the Supreme Soviet, and the people's deputies: To adopt a law on power which invests the president and the government with the full panoply of executive power with the subordination of the Central Bank and the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity to the Russian Government for the transition period, and which clearly demarcates the powers of all branches of power, simultaneously amending Article 104 of the Constitution; to set a new

date (no later than June 1993) for holding a referendum using the formulations proposed by the president in connection with the fact that "owing to sabotage by soviets at all levels, the 11 April referendum is to all intents and purposes in ruins"; and not to schedule new elections until such a time as a new Constitution and electoral law have been adopted.

The IMU Council of Representatives and the Council of Kuzbass Workers' Committees warned deputies at the Eighth Congress and the Supreme Soviet "about the full panoply of political responsibility" which they will assume should they fail to adopt the demands, and they have reserved the right to organize a general political strike.

The session supported an appeal by leaders of coal enterprises of the "Kuzbassrazrezugol" Concern declaring a halt to the shipment of fuel to consumers as of 13 March.

United Front of Working People Dissatisfied

LD1503120293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Eighth Congress of People's Deputies had no positive results such as the (?implementation) of radical solutions, Vladimir Stradimov, member of the executive committee of the United Front of Working People of Russia, told an RIA correspondent. In his opinion the situation in the country remains very complex, and the current composition of the deputies is incapable of changing it for the better.

Our slogan is: No confidence in and no support for all the structures of power, he said, stressing that the United Front of Working People of Russia is insisting on general early elections. They must be held according to the production-territorial principle, which ensures the active participation of work forces.

Democrats Denounce Congress

LD1503135593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] At this moment a consultative meeting of representatives of parties, movements, and public unions is ending in Moscow. Andrey Zenkov, our special correspondent, reports that the participants of the meeting have unanimously estimated the results of the Congress of People's Deputies as a constitutional coup. They believe that the adoption of Article 121 virtually allows the Supreme Soviet to dismiss the president from power if it wishes to do so at the next sitting.

The meeting once again confirmed its orientation to hold the referendum on three main questions: the mechanism of adopting the Constitution, the expediency of a presidential republic, and private ownership of land. Furthermore, an attempt has been made to agree on closer cooperation of all democratic forces including the Democratic Party of Russia and the Civic Union.

Trade Unions Advocate Adherence to Constitution

LD1503141193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar—The leadership of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR) has appealed to all trade union organizations in the country "to display wisdom and not to allow political adventurists to wreck the fragile social peace."

A statement on the results of the Eighth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, adopted today by the presidium of the FITUR council, says:

"Social peace and an end to the deep crisis gripping all spheres of public life are only possible on the basis of unconditional compliance with the Constitution and the laws of Russia by organizations in all branches of state power and administration."

The FITUR advocates "the implementation of economic reforms in the interests of working people." The trade union federation protests against all attempts to exploit the legitimate discontent of work forces "as a way of involving them in unconstitutional political actions."

Moscow Consultative Conference Reacts

LD1503184193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The permanent consultative conference of representatives of parties, public associations, trade unions, and creative unions has discussed in Moscow today the results of the Eighth Congress and has adopted an appeal to the voters and to the president of Russia. The document states in particular: The congress has in fact usurped all the power in the country. In these conditions economic reforms cannot make any headway.

Those who signed this appeal include the Democratic Russia movement, the independent miners' trade unions, the Russian Confederation of Independent Trade Unions, the Federation of Air Traffic Controllers, and Flying Personnel. They stated their opposition to the communist ruling majority at the congress and said that they do not recognize its decisions. They share the responsibility of the president for holding the referendum and call for the referendum to be held.

Parties, Unions Want Presidential Rule

OW1503194793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of people who want to set up a Russian Association of the Electorate has issued a statement

saying the Eighth Congress "has committed a communist coup, usurped all power, and, for practical purposes, removed from power the president elected by popular vote."

In its appeal to the electorate and the president the group says it does not recognize the decisions made by the Congress, opposes the entire system of congressional power, and has no confidence in the deputies who took action against the people.

The authors of the appeal call on the president to suspend the "Brezhnev constitution", impose direct presidential rule over the whole of the Russian Federation pending adoption of a new constitution, decree the private ownership of land, call a referendum on the power issue and convene a Constitutional Assembly, and suspend the Congress, parliament, and local soviets until the results of the referendum are made public.

The appeal emphasizes the need to dissolve immediately all structures which incite violence, ethnic and class hostility, or the overthrow of the president elected by popular vote.

The authors call on the president to continue the policy of reform designed to create a class of proprietors in the country and to prevent the takeover of newspapers, radio, and television by the Supreme Soviet and the reinstatement of political censorship.

The appeal calls on the citizens of Russia to support the President they elected. This is the sole opportunity for avoiding bloodshed, a new fratricidal war, the document emphasizes. It was signed by leaders of the Union of Russian Writers, Independent Union of Mineworkers, Federation of Air Traffic Controller Unions, Association of Flying Crews, Union of Cossack Forces, Peasants' Party, and the Russian Trade Union of Locomotive Crews.

Christian Democrats Want Referendum

OW1503195093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1926
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Irresponsible" and "reneging on the agreement between the president, the parliament and the Constitutional Court" were the comments regarding the decisions of the 8th Congress of People's Deputies made by the Political Council of Russia's Christian Democratic Union (RCDU) in the address to President Boris Yeltsin. Chairman of the RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet is referred to as "the Congress' orchestrator who has brought Russian to the brink of a civil war."

The RCDU Political Council demanded that the president stage a national referendum on the fundamental clauses of the Russian Constitution and call for elections to the All-Russia Constitutional Assembly in order to produce Russia's Constitution. The document also contains a call for the president to display "persistence and

forbearance in implementing democratic reforms, as well as determination in combatting the opponents of democracy in Russia."

The address was signed by RCDU cochairman Vitaliy Sovitskiy, member of Russia's Supreme Soviet Rev. Gleb Yakunin and member of the presidium of Moscow's city council Valeriy Borshev.

Social-Liberal Party Wants Plebiscite

OW1503195993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Social-Liberal Party (RSLP) will demand that the Russian president conduct a plebiscite, announced the party's chairman, Vladimir Filin, at a press conference Monday [15 March] in Moscow. He feels through the plebiscite the Russian citizens will be able to determine the solution to the political crisis.

A statement issued by the party's Policy Council on March 15 claims that the result of the Congress of People's Deputies was that "in effect a Communist coup was completed." "Bolshevik structures of the Soviet powers concentrated all the powers in the hands of the Congress, thus violating the principle of separation of powers," states the document. The president, the RSLP Policy Council believes, lost his influence on the course of reforms.

The RSLP has a membership of about 1,500 and belongs to the New Russia bloc, which favors the adoption of a new constitution by a constituent assembly and early elections of the legislative and executive powers.

Public Supports Yeltsin

LD1603092293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in
Russian 0800 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] We begin with a statement from the press service of the Russian Federation president, which we have only just received.

It says: Following the Congress of People's Deputies, the number of letters and appeals from individuals and groups to Boris Yeltsin has sharply increased. The president usually receives about 3,000 letters a day. The overwhelming majority of letters, a ratio of 30 to one, express support for the president and call for determination in defending democracy and the reforms. Most letters strongly oppose the decisions and documents passed by the Congress.

Judging from the mail, there is particular public antipathy toward the Congress's refusal to allow the people the right to express their opinion in a referendum. Many of the reactions, letters, and appeals describe the outcome of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies as a state coup.

The geographical range of the letters and appeals to the president is particularly broad. There is a vast flood of letters from all the republics within Russia and from the krais and oblasts of the Russian Federation. The people of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other major industrial centers are especially active in their support for the president. People from all walks of life are among those writing letters. There are many from pensioners, war and labor veterans, and servicemen.

The most repeated call in the letters is for the president to turn to the people for their support.

Further on Letters of Support

OW1603115993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President's press-secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, has reported that the overwhelming majority of letters addressed to Boris Yeltsin (30:1 proportion) support him and call for the resolve to uphold democracy and reform. Most addresses are sharply negative toward the decisions and documents of the 8th Congress of People's Deputies.

The population, as the press-secretary said with reference to the mail, is particularly displeased with the Congress' refusal to give people the right to express their opinion through a referendum. In many comments and letters from individuals and work teams, and the number of such messages has sharply grown after the Congress, its results are described as a "coup d'etat".

One most often repeated call in the letters says: "Boris Nikolayevich, it's time to stop yielding positions" and ask the people for support.

Messages have been pouring in from all over the country these days (normally the President receives about 3000 letters a day), the press-secretary said. Letters have been coming in large numbers from all republics, regions, and territories of Russia. Residents of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other major industrial centers have stepped up activity in Mr. Yeltsin's support. The authors of the letters represent all groups in society - pensioners, war veterans, servicemen. Many messages are signed by whole families, Mr. Kostikov reported.

'Alternative Roundtable' Statement

OW1503150493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A consultative meeting of political parties and democratic movements (the so-called "Alternative Roundtable") has called for the retention of presidential power in Russia. At the meeting on Monday [15 March] delegates declared that the president was the main guarantee of democracy.

An address by the roundtable to the president himself and to the citizens of Russia backed Yeltsin's initiative to bear full responsibility for the April referendum. "This is now the only peaceful and lawful means of settling the conflict and avoiding chaos and civil war," the document read. "Since the Congress has grossly rejected all of the president's proposals and virtually usurped all power in Russia." Economic reforms cannot take place under such conditions, the address continued.

The referendum should, the "Alternative" roundtable said, decide issues such as a vote of confidence in the present authorities, a way for the constitutional assembly to adopt the new constitution and private land ownership. The statement emphasized that the Congress must be "stripped of its anti-popular powers." The base of Russia's democratic movements was set up at the meeting. Its council contains the Russian People's Deputies Lev Ponomarev, Gleb Yakunin, Vladimir Bokser, Telman Gdlian, Yuriy Chernichenko, Marina Salye, and Irina Khakamada among others. The headquarters will coordinate the activities of the democratic movements in the current situation.

Commentaries on, Reviews of Proceedings

Commentary on 'Abandoning Ambitions'

PM1503145393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Mar 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksey Vorobyev "Commentary: "Abandoning Ambitions Without Waiving Principles"]

[Text] The agonizing discussions about the formula for accord and several attempts to vote for the basis of the Congress decree, which ran into the selfsame obstacles, laid bare the essence of the conflict which has paralyzed the power structure. The emotional gesture at the 12 March morning session of a president unhappy with point two and point seven of the congress draft resolution was the logical conclusion to the unproductive discussions. It is now clear that the root of the evil lies not in the constitutional crisis or any other kind of crisis and not even in the executive's lack of powers. All these things are just consequences of the symptoms of another, far more serious illness afflicting our state.

In the past 18 months all political figures, parties, and movements have been united in stating categorically that there is no alternative to the reform! But at the same time all the sides have been slyly ignoring the question of precisely which reform they have in mind. The total lack of clear programs here, or at least of individual clear formulas, has played into the hands of those figures who sought to avoid responsibility for the economic policy they are pursuing. This also helped those who dedicated themselves to the equally irresponsible and unconstructive criticism of the transformations that are taking place.

The most sacred aim—the reforms—has been transformed into merely a means of political struggle. People

have sworn loyalty to the reforms while demanding additional, special, almost emergency powers. Blocking the course of the reforms was felt to be the gravest charge that could be made. Thousands of people were called to rallies under that slogan.

But any instrument of policy becomes blunt and useless in a very short time if those who wield it have set themselves an erroneous or clearly unrealistic task. Entreaties to the mythical "course of reforms" proved futile and the course itself became for society a symbol of the collapse and impoverishment of the country.

It is quite obvious that its most active supporters have lost the confidence of the bulk of society. The cause of the present conflict at the congress is simple—the majority of people's deputies simply do not believe the previous reformers and doubt very much that the executive will be able to use the new additional powers intelligently.

Could this distrust have been surmounted? That clearly would have required first of all a new economic policy concept to be offered to society.

Today, of course, that is incredibly difficult to do—the harsh laws of political combat prevent people from calmly considering and weighing up all the planned transformations. But there is no other path now—at the present moment there is simply nothing that the sides can negotiate on!

The disputes at the congress revolved merely around the terms of the armistice which, in the absence of a single strategy for overcoming the chaos in the economy, might last at best just a few weeks. The deputies and the president's team understood perfectly well the hypothetical nature of such accords. Surmounting even the sense of self-preservation, they sought more radical measures.

But whereas here the Congress remained within the framework of the Constitution, the president was forced to widen that framework since his room for political maneuver has been reduced to the minimum. In fact, what "other measures" did he strenuously try to hint about to deputies? Even if we accept the improbable, you will agree that it would take a spetsnaz [special forces] company to disperse the congress. But as was said during the days of the August putsch, you cannot send the tanks into all of Russia and the next day anyone who had declared a state of emergency would encounter harsh resistance from virtually all the subjects of the Federation. This is the short route to feudal fragmentation.

An appeal to the people asking them to express their opinion after all that has happened will work only if there is a clear alternative to vote for: either the president or the parliament. But the "nationwide poll" itself and the mechanism for implementing its results will hardly be legitimate.

Is there a way out after such harsh actions by the president at the congress? Most likely it must be sought

in the creation of a coalition government which could be entrusted with elaborating an anticrisis program. But for that the president must take one step which is already obvious to the majority of Russian politicians—he must relinquish the radical democratic entourage that has tied his hands and agree to the real participation of the most authoritative representatives of the leading political parties in the supreme structures of executive power.

That will undoubtedly not require the president to renounce his principled reform orientation. This action will finally help to give the reforms real content and ensure their support from the bulk of society. The bridges for such actions have not yet been burned.

Congress Seen as 'Pyrrhic Victory'

PM1603102193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Mar 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Chugayev commentary: "Congress of Victors Carried Out Coup d'Etat and Took Power Away From People"]

[Text] Most of the forecasts abundantly made ahead of the extraordinary Eighth Congress of Russian People's Deputies asserted that the clash between the president and his supporters and the Congress majority, as the apotheosis of the increasingly sharp struggle between the executive and legislative branches, would end in a draw. A great deal suggested that this would happen. Above all, the numerous conciliation initiatives that the president made ahead of the Congress.

However, the forecasts were not borne out. The president suffered a crushing defeat. So there is every reason to describe the Congress that has just ended as a Congress of victors. By analogy with the historic party forum which noted the elimination of the last preconditions for the revival of democracy and established one of the most brutal totalitarian regimes in history in the country for decades.

As is well known, the distinguishing feature of party congresses was the fact that everything that was said there was said in the name of the people. Although power belonged not to the people, but to the party. At the Eighth Congress the majority of deputies again spoke in the name of the people and swore by the name of the people. However, given the sharp confrontation between the two branches of power legally elected by the people, it would have logical to allow the supreme ruler—the people—to resolve the dispute. And money must be no object when it comes to preserving that power for the people. Especially as the deputies were elected in different conditions, in a different country, and effectively by a different people. All too many changes have occurred in Russia during this period. It is now high time for the deputies to check how far they are in tune with the new citizens of the new Russia. However, instead of this, following the old party habit, they are continuing to regard themselves as the only expressers of the people's will. And for greater safety, they are taking away the

people's right to express their will. For instance, Deputy N. Volodin, chairman of Orel Oblast Soviet, expressed doubt at the Congress that the people would be able to understand the referendum questions. Are we supposed to believe that the residents of the Orel region have feeble mental capacities? It looks as though eight years after the start of perestroika the party's power is once again in the hands of an organ that differs little from the CPSU in terms of its professionalism, habits, demagoguery, and attitude to the people.

Three main events occurred at this Congress. The Congress proclaimed the constitution to be the supreme yardstick of the actions of all political forces and state organs. R. Khasbulatov spoke very persuasively about this. But this same Congress once and for all trampled on any respect for the basic law, which is being changed with clockwork regularity once every three or four months to suit the ambitious aspirations of the chief legislators. Henceforth we are living not according to the constitution, but according to the decisions of a Congress that is afraid of its own voters, has debarred Russia's citizens from taking part in determining the basic principles of their life, and has long since suffered moral death.

By changing the Russian Constitution, the Congress changed the system for running the country which Russia's people voted to support in the 17 March 1991 referendum, a year after the deputies were elected. By bringing into effect amendments to the constitution giving parliament the right to suspend any presidential edict and debarring the president from leadership of the executive branch, the Congress took power away from the president of Russia legally elected by the people.

And, finally, the Congress took power away from the people themselves, to whom, as Article 2 of the constitution, which has not yet been repealed, says, it entirely and fully belongs. By introducing a moratorium on referendums and rejecting the proposals for early elections, the Congress deprived the people of the right to vote. Presumably the Congress is well aware of what the people think of it and therefore does not want to return power to the people.

Thus there is every reason to conclude that a silent coup d'état took place during the Eighth Congress in Russia. There are all the indications: The constitution has ceased to be the supreme legal and political guarantee, the president elected by the whole people has been deprived of power, and the people's right to freely express their will has been taken away.

The Congress can regard itself as the victor. But for how long? Russia's people have changed a great deal in recent years. They will not give up power just like that. By depriving the people of the right to express their will by constitutional, legal means, the Congress is inciting them to seek other, unconstitutional forms of expression. Given the present political polarization in Russian society, this means that a threat of civil war has emerged in Russia thanks to the Congress' decisions.

Presumably the deputies made a serious mistake when they decided that B. Yeltsin had demonstrated his weakness by persistently seeking consensus throughout the Congress. All the indications are that the president realized extremely clearly that, in Russia's present political and socioeconomic conditions, consensus is the only chance of preserving not only democracy and reforms but also the state itself. However, the Congress arrogantly rejected the hand held out by the president. It even simply refused to discuss B. Yeltsin's final proposal to provide a clearer interpretation of the famous Article 104 of the constitution, which in present-day Russian society plays the role of the equally famous Article 6 of the USSR Constitution. However, in all probability the immediate future will show that the real, only possible victory for the Congress—victory for the sake of Russia and its citizens—could have been the attainment of consensus. But the Congress won a very different victory. In the words of R. Khasbulatov to the Seventh Congress: "This is a Pyrrhic victory."

Columnist Assesses Appeal to People

PM1603135793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Mar 93 First Edition p 2

[Mikhail Berger article: "Asking the Citizens to Keep Calm"]

[Text] Among the documents adopted by the Eighth Congress the "Appeal to the Citizens of the Russian Federation" may be considered the most political.

This document is purely political because it contains absolutely no concrete decisions or instructions but instead has a range of assessments and statements addressed not only to the citizens of Russia in general but also to the executive, as well as to existing and potential political allies and opponents.

Assessing its own work as activity aimed at "establishing and strengthening democracy in the country, the search for a civilized arrangement of federal power, and the strengthening of constitutional law and order," the congress peremptorily states: "Only in this way is it possible to provide scope for the economic reforms and create normal conditions for Russians' lives."

To judge from the appeal deputies are convinced that for almost two years they have unilaterally strengthened the power of the president by giving him special powers, that this practice has not yielded positive results, and that the economic reform has worked against the majority of the people.

Citing a message from the Constitutional Court, the congress draws attention to the fact that many of the president's edicts contravene the Basic Law. "Russia must abandon emergency measures and emergency powers," the appeal says. "Society can develop normally only if all state figures and institutions of power, political parties and movements, and every citizen unswervingly observes the Constitution."

In principle the idea is right but it should not be forgotten that the constitution referred to is the Constitution of a Soviet Socialist Republic within the USSR which, if I may put it this way, does not always tally with the development of market relations in society. The president and the congress are not operating on equal terms here. The president cannot change the socialist Constitution in order to implement privatization or other market measures and thus is forced either to request special powers or to go against the Basic Law. It is easier for deputies: If their intentions do not tally with the constitutional norms they amend the Constitution and thus avoid accusations of unconstitutionality.

After accusing the president of making proposals which do not tally with the constitution, the congress comes to the conclusion that the position of the head of state contravenes Russia's proclaimed intention of building a rule-of-law state and a democratic society.

On the other hand the deputies have no doubts about themselves: "The congress has adopted a democratic decision which offers the government new opportunities for coordinating all economic work and financial and credit policy in the country."

Assessing referendums as nonbinding events which society is being "drawn into," deputies officially announced to the people in their appeal (if anyone has not understood) that "the congress does not disregard the opinion of the people but seeks to protect them from political adventurism..."

Probably fearing that there will be forces in society which will misunderstand the congress' concern for the people's welfare and its efforts to protect people from "political adventurism" and from expressing their opinion with the help of the referendum, the congress in conclusion appealed to all citizens to keep calm and observe the rule of law and order.

Voltaire once stated with no one in particular in mind: There are no chance occurrences, there is either reward, omen, or punishment. Probably he did not foresee occasions which combine all three hypostases at the same time.

Political Issues

Mikhail Bocharov Urges Election of President, Parliament

LD1503173493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Mikhail Bocharov, whom Yeltsin nominated for Russian prime minister in his time and who is president of the International Russian Club at present, told journalists today that "Russia can repeat the sad fate of the former Soviet Union".

"It is not only republics of the federation but also territories and regions that are striving for sovereignty at present," Bocharov told a news conference here today.

Bocharov said both branches of power - the legislative and the executive - are to blame. "The president and the people's deputies of Russia must muster courage and admit that it is through their fault that the country lost 50 billion dollars last year and the state became corrupt through and through," Bocharov said.

The only way out is to elect a new president and a new people's deputy corps, he said.

Russia does not need foreign credits and investments, it can pursue its own economic policy using its wealth of natural resources," he stressed.

Yeltsin Said Living in 'World of Illusions'

PM1503134593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 93 p 1

[Gennadiy Seleznev "Publicist's Notes": "Failure of Power Seekers"]

[Text] There is no need to put a gun to your head. Lynching is inadmissible. Bloodthirstiness is not a feature of Soviet man but the lot of savages. Do you recall how the world flinched on seeing the televised execution of the Ceausescu husband-and-wife team? Without trial or investigation, without charges being brought, they were led from an armored personnel carrier and shot at point-blank range in cold blood. And how Pinochet, the idol of some of our democrats, dealt with President Allende? We also remember.

Hardly anyone welcomes such a "departure" of top officials from their posts. Those were coups—brutal, bloodthirsty, savage coups. Thank God that our "democratic savages," in their attempt to trample socialism underfoot in August 1991, passed death sentences on, lynched, and disfigured only the granite and marble of monuments. Those drunken nights, although they were not nights of "long knives," still did not pass without bloodshed. The script writers and sponsors of the anti-socialist coup needed blood. Teachers at one institute said: Students ran out of class on learning that imported cans of beer, stronger beverages, and cartons of Marlboro were being handed out free outside the "besieged" House of the Soviets. The Russian president's speech from the top of a tank also acted as dope for mass hysteria. Although he was perfectly well aware that his life was in no danger. He could have prevented the nighttime riots, could have saved the lives of the three young people who died absurdly. He did not do so, having heeded Burbulis' advice to seize the moment and take a tough political course of antisocialism and anticommunism. This was his fateful political mistake, which was followed by more dreadful mistakes. The president scorned the constitution which he had sworn to uphold.

I do not know whether our president, standing with candle in hand at the church altar, repented of the sin that he committed in Belovezhskaya Forest, whether he mourned the tens of thousands of Soviet citizens who have died in the Dniester Region, in South Ossetia, in Abkhazia, and in Tajikistan, or whether he asked forgiveness of the refugees, of the thousands upon thousands of Russians subjected to humiliation in the Baltic region.

Hardly. At present we see the president enjoying power and its boundless opportunities, distributing posts to his loyal people, and transferring devoted deputies to his own organs of management, naturally rewarding them with smart Moscow apartments and dachas at Arkhangelskoye. He can afford to land by helicopter at the Troitse-Sergiyev Monastery and take off directly from the Kremlin Square for the delight of his German guest. The country's former rulers could not afford such boldness.

Our power seekers have arranged their own life and that of their court more sumptuously than Western monarchs and presidents do, while they have abandoned their own citizens to the will of fate, seeing them off with the word: Survive. Do a bit of trading and a bit of thieving, pilfer state property, give yourselves up, betray, get out of our sight, shoot one another.

Incidentally, anti-Leninist populists continue to harp on the slogan about the cruelty of Lenin, who exiled representatives of the Russian intelligentsia abroad. I advise them to count up how many of our scientists, writers, and artists have left Russia over the past two years. They have left because their talent is not in demand in their motherland. But the terror which bandits are perpetrating against compatriots, having thrown aside all restraint and operating without hindrance throughout Russia, will soon eclipse both the white and the red terrors of the twenties in terms of the number of victims.

Western advisers and Russian champions of their ideas try to convince us that it cannot be otherwise in a postcommunist society. They say that anarchy, killings, the poverty of the majority and the enrichment of the minority, and the moral devastation of souls are the norm during the transitional period to savage capitalism. But, forgive me, on which yellow and blue or pink and white banners with a touch of cyanosis, in which constitutions or declarations is it written that the policy of the former USSR republics is aimed at the 18th century and reflects the peoples' will to reverse history? Maybe the new leaders and their entourage know the method of zombifying people by assuring them, the fools, that life under socialism was nothing but slavery, whereas the life which has come or is on the point of coming is the limit of the dreams of civilized mankind, while we Soviet oafs do not understand this.

You marvel at the naïvete of the Russian president. He goes to the Volga and learns the prices of sausages; he travels outside Russia and makes the discovery that our weapons are a competitive commodity; he learns that his

emissaries or local representatives are pilfering state property and severely reprimands not the thieves and bribetakers but the one who dared to report the truth.

The president of a vast country continues to live in his own world of illusions that has been artificially created by his retinue. He pronounces like incantations phrases about friends and enemies of some reforms and states with conviction that the life of the people is on the point of improving and that there are no alternatives to precisely this strategy of reforms. He contrives to preserve the entire backbone of Gaydar's windbag ministers, who produced nothing useful in their former scientific laboratories or in minor managerial posts. He cannot or does not wish to answer this question: Into which "black holes" do billions of dollars fly, and who pockets them?

How many more days, weeks, and months does the president need to open his eyes and honestly admit that not only the political but also the socioeconomic policy of his team has totally failed? That neither he nor those on whom he is banking will halt the crisis? Our president is not a creator by nature. Even his yesterday's friends and associates have recognized this.

There is no need for executions, it is necessary to honestly tender the resignation and go to nurse grandchildren in a new little dacha at Gorki near Moscow.

Worthy people will be found in rich Russia who are capable of gathering up the stones that have been cast. They will repent of the evil perpetrated by departed rulers over the past two years. Thieves and embezzlers of public funds, bandits and rapists will be sent to where they should have been sent long ago. An appeal for unity and peace will be made to brother Ukrainians, Belarusians, Kazakhs, and Uzbeks and to all who are ready to revive, together with Russia, a mighty new state. We will rally and get up off our knees all together, as during the terrible World War II. The most recent history has shown that we cannot live without each other.

Military Issues

Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Khvatov Dismissed

LD1503155593 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1525 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Andrey Narushkin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (*ITAR-TASS*)—Admiral Gen-nadiy Khvatov, commander of the Pacific Fleet, has been dismissed by order of Russia's defense minister.

An *ITAR-TASS* correspondent was told today at the Defense Ministry that the order was signed on 11 March.

The reason for the commander's dismissal was the tragedy that occurred at the beginning of February in the training units of the Pacific Fleet on Russkiy Island as a

result of an outbreak of acute intestinal disease and of the poor diet of the servicemen. Four seamen died, and several hundred were admitted to military hospitals with various diagnoses.

Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev described the incident on Russkiy as "a blatant outrage." The outbreak was caused, he said, by the conscription of young men with progressive weight loss, and by breakdowns in supplying the seamen with heat and food.

Further on Dismissal

LD1603094093 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0559 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Admiral Gennadiy Khvatov, commander of the Pacific Fleet, was dismissed by the order of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, signed on March 11, *ITAR-TASS* was told at the Defence Ministry.

The dismissal came in conjunction with the tragedy that happened on the Russkiy Island, where a training base of the Pacific Fleet is situated. At the beginning of February there was an outbreak of acute intestinal diseases. Four seamen died, several hundred others had to be taken to military hospitals.

Russian Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev termed the accident as "an out and out disgrace". In his words, the outbreak was caused by admission of conscripts with a progressive weight deficiency, and by stoppages in heat and food supplies to the seamen's quarters.

Grachev Order on Implementing Soldiers' Benefits

PM1503125593 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian* 12 Mar 93 p 3

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center report: "Law Starting To Work"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, has issued Order No. 123 of 5 March 1993 defining the procedure for implementing the Russian Federation law "On Additional Guarantees and Compensations for Servicemen Performing Military Service on the Territories of the Transcaucasian and Baltic States and the Republic of Tajikistan and Also Fulfilling Tasks of Protecting Citizens' Constitutional Rights Under Conditions of a State of Emergency and in Armed Conflicts." The aforementioned categories of servicemen are granted a whole number of benefits as of 6 February this year. For example, officers, ensigns, warrant officers, and servicemen performing extended military service in the Transcaucasus, the Baltic region, and Tajikistan are paid 1.5 times the official salary and the rates for military rank, and their length of service will be calculated at the rate of 1.5 months per month actually served. They receive additional annual paid

leave of 14 days, housing will be reserved for them for the whole duration of their service in the said regions, while those without apartments will keep their place in the line to obtain housing at their former place of service.

Orders on Payments for Servicemen

PM1503141593 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian* 13 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Ivan Ivanyuk: "New Incentives"]

[Text] Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev has signed a number of orders aimed at strengthening social protection for servicemen and members of their families and the Armed Forces' civilian personnel.

Thus, in accordance with the law "on the status of servicemen," the minister's order no. 115 of 9 March has approved money payments for servicemen and people released from military service. In particular it sets the size of grants for release into the reserve and for retirement, when appointed to a post and when being moved with a military unit to another population center.

The defense minister has also signed order no. 129 on putting in order the salaries of the civilian personnel of the Defense Ministry apparatus and the apparatuses of the districts, groups of forces, fleets, armies, flotillas, organs of military prosecutor's offices and military courts, and field branches of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, and also order no. 130 on the introduction of new conditions for salaries for civilian personnel in budget-funded organizations on the basis of a single scale of charges. Compared with those received in November wages will increase 100-200 percent.

Yeltsin Decree on Reorganizing N. Caucasus Military

LD1603105693 Moscow *Radio Rossii Network in Russian* 1000 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on reorganization of Russian military bodies in the North Caucasus region and on state support for the Cossacks.

The document reorganizes the Transcaucasus border district into the North Caucasus border district, and plans turning the district's troops into a rapid-response force. The decree lays down the procedure for serving in Cossack units in Russia's armed forces. The government is instructed to draw up regulations to govern land relations with Cossacks serving in the military, and the president's state legal directorate is instructed to draft a charter for the Russian Cossacks.

Conference Views Future of Navy

LD1503221393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By V. Balatov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] A conference entitled "What Kind of Navy for Russia" opened today in St. Petersburg.

[Begin recording] [Balatov] The role of the Navy, protecting national security, and the construction of up-to-date warships were some of the subjects discussed. Until recently, practically all types of ships—battleships, cruisers, submarines—were being built at the Baltic works. Today defense production accounts for only 8 percent of the output. Due to a lack of financing, a question mark hung over the construction of the nuclear missile cruiser Peter the Great until recently. How can production and scientific-technical potential be maintained today? Participants at the conference discussed development of the Russian Navy.

[Russian Deputy Defense Minister A.A. Kokoshin] We need a new, fresh approach that takes into account the situation today, a difficult situation both from the economic and production point of view. The Navy is having to take responsibility for inadequate decisions made in the past. We need to take a broad view of future prospects based on a good understanding of the history of the Russian Armed Forces and the Navy of the Russian Empire and Soviet Union. [end recording]

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree Setting Up Finance Corporation

LD1503163393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1527 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, today signed a decree "On the creation of a Russian Finance Corporation." This was stated by the Russian president's press service. The document approves the initiative of the Ministry of Economics with regard to this issue, and instructs the Cabinet of Ministers to complete work within two months on the creation of the Russian Finance Corporation.

The decree defines the corporation's spheres and forms of activity. Its activity will be directed toward increasing the effectiveness of the investment process, creating conditions for the wide-scale attracting of financial resources, including those from foreign investors, and ensuring the restructuring of the Russian economy, the statement says.

On Import Customs Duties

LD1503165493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1459 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 March (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today "On import customs tariffs of the Russian Federation" for the purposes of improving the customs tariff regulation of foreign economic ties of the Russian Federation. In accordance with this document, from 1 April 1993, goods imported into Russia will have import customs duty imposed on them according to the rates of the import customs tariff of the Russian Federation, regardless of the date a contract was concluded.

A press release from the president's press service notes that persons permanently resident on the territory of the Russian Federation are permitted to bring goods into Russia duty free (with the exception of means of transport) worth up to \$5,000. Anything in excess of this quota will have duty imposed on it at the base rate.

An appendix to the decree sets out the rates of import customs duties for specific categories of goods.

On Aviation Development

LD1503170593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1458 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 March (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today on the development and activity of general-purpose aviation in Russia. The president approved the initiative of the National Aviation Association of Russia on the formation in the country of a single system of administration of general-purpose aviation, using aircraft at the disposal and in the possession of public associations and private persons, the announcement of the president's press service says.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Meets With Thai Princess in Moscow

LD1503113493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar—At a meeting with Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslav Khasbulatov in the House of Soviets today, Maha Charki Sirinthon, princess of the Kingdom of Thailand, said the aim of her visit is to learn as much as possible about Russia. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this at the press center of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Answering the visitor's question on the short-term prospects for the development of the socioeconomic situation in Russia and on the role of the Supreme Soviet, Khasbulatov said: "It is now necessary to concentrate on

purely economic transformations. In this connection we attach great importance to the actions of the federal government—it is the federal government that should have the final say. Decisions made at the last Congress mean that its significance as the top body in managing the economy has sharply increased."

As for the parliament, Khasbulatov said, it has reserved two functions for itself: legislative, and monitoring the observance of laws and the country's Constitution. "We do not intend to interfere in administration," he added. "We expect positive changes to appear, situation to improve, and the federal government to work efficiently."

Khasbulatov Meets German Government Delegation

LD1503173793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Russian Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov met a German government delegation including members of the Treuhandanstalt leadership led by Mr. Traenkner to discuss economic relations between the two countries.

The parties discussed measures to facilitate Russian investments in Eastern Germany and German investments in the Russian industry.

Khasbulatov told delegation members the Russian parliament was doing much to consolidate the legal base of economic cooperation and "would have promulgated a number of very good laws to facilitate cooperation if it had not been hampered".

Abdulatipov, Shakhray Press Conference Viewed

PM1503154793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Mar 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Sharapov report under the "Press Center" rubric: "There Are No 'Absolute Victories' in Politics"]

[Text] The scheduled theme of the meeting between Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Nationalities, and Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray—interethnic problems in Russia—was "amended" by the morning's events. Ramazan Abdulatipov noted that the more we begin talking about politics, the further we lead society into the impasse. In the opinion of the chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities there is no conflict between the legislature and the executive, the only problem is the nonobservance of the Constitution. Today everyone is shouting himself hoarse calling for accord, and by accord each individual presumes that everyone else will switch to his position. Society has still not developed a culture of political dialogue and the old stereotypes are still quite widely used. Ramazan Abdulatipov referred to a report in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA claiming that he and Sergey Shakhray are leaders of major international mafia structures whose power extends all the way to London.

In a telephone conversation, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev stressed that he did not give any information or names.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, assessing the work of the congress, believes that so far its result or, rather, the lack of one, consists in an accord between the powers and is weakening Russia all the more. There remain two legitimate solutions to the situation that has developed—early elections or a referendum. Either of these solutions is far better than unconstitutional upheavals, rallies, or manning the barricades. No actions to disperse the representative organs of power are planned. Sergey Shakhray's assured. Today we must adhere above all to the constitutional foundations such as the sovereignty of the people and federalism. The vice premier announced that in the congress recess the government held an operational session, it is functioning normally, and is not planning any political demarches. Sergey Shakhray stressed again that a referendum is a sharp weapon but is better than unconstitutional upheavals.

Both the chairman of the chamber of parliament and the vice premier agreed that in politics there are no "absolute victories." Ramazan Abdulatipov expressed a positive view of the idea of early elections, possibly even on 12 June 1993.

Text of Deputies' Appeal to Court Published

PM1603112593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 93 First Edition p 1

[Petition to Constitutional Court signed by 57 people's deputies: "Congress Decree Is Illegal. 57 People's Deputies Appeal to Constitutional Court"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A group of people's deputies has sent the following petition to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

On verifying the constitutionality of decree No 4626-1 of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies dated 12 March 1993 "On Measures To Implement Russian Federation Constitutional Reform (on the Decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies 'On Stabilizing the Russian Federation Constitutional System')" and Article 27 Paragraph 12 and Article 31 of Russian Federation law No 4661-1 dated 9 December 1992 "On Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Constitution (Basic Law) of the Russian Federation-Russia [as published]."

In accordance with Article 59 Point 1 of the RSFSR law "On the RSFSR Constitutional Court" and on the basis of Article 58 of that same law, we Russian Federation people's deputies petition the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to verify the constitutionality of decree No 4620-1 [number as published] of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies dated 12 March 1993 "On Measures To Implement Russian Federation Constitutional Reform (on the Decree of the Seventh

Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies 'On Stabilizing the Russian Federation Constitutional System')" and Article 27 Paragraph 12 and Article 31 of Russian Federation law No 4661-1 dated 9 December 1992 "On Amendments and Additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Russian Federation-Russia."

The basis for the petition is the content of the aforementioned decrees of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies, which contravene the separation of powers established in the Russian Federation and the demarcation between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches enshrined by the Russian Federation Constitution. Under Article 58 of the RSFSR law "On the RSFSR Constitutional Court," a petition is to be examined from this viewpoint.

Article 109 Point 19 of the Russian Federation Constitution in the new wording adopted by decree of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies lays down that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "is entitled to suspend the operation of edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president pending the resolution by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court of cases regarding their constitutionality in the event of an appeal by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the Russian Federation Constitutional Court." This means blatant intrusion into the sphere of powers of the judiciary, that is, a violation of the fundamental principle of the separation of powers laid down by Article 3 of the Russian Federation Constitution. According to Article 21 Point 1 Subpoint 6 of the RSFSR law "On the RSFSR Constitutional Court," such suspension is permissible only in the event of an appeal by the chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, that is, such a decision can be implemented only on the initiative of the judiciary.

By decision of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies, Article 121(b) of the Russian Federation Constitution has been supplemented with a provision that the powers of the Russian Federation president can be immediately terminated.

This crudely violates Articles 121(3) and 121(10) of the Russian Federation Constitution, which make provision for a nationwide procedure for electing the Russian Federation president and his removal from office in the event of violation of the Russian Federation Constitution, laws, and also his oath while observing the procedure specially stipulated in the Russian Federation Constitution.

On the basis of the above, we consider that Article 27 Paragraph 12 and Article 31 of Russian Federation law No 4661-1 dated 9 December 1992 "On Amendments and Additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Russian Federation-Russia" and Points 1 and 7 of the decree of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies dated 12 March 1993 "On Measures To Implement Russian Federation Constitutional Reform (on the Decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation

People's Deputies 'On Stabilizing the Russian Federation Constitutional System')" are an encroachment upon the foundations of the constitutional system and should be deemed unconstitutional in that they contravene the principle of the separation of powers, the Federation Treaty, and the provisions of Articles 3, 121(3), and 121(10) of the Russian Federation Constitution.

[Signed] Russian Federation People Deputies V. Volkov, S. Yushenkov, L. Ponomarev, Yu. Yeskov, B. Denisenko, L. Kudinova, N. Yakimenko, G. Yakunin, M. Salye, M. Molostvov, M. Arutyunov, Ye. Kim, V. Belov, D. Volkogonov, K. Yevtushenko, S. Ivanov, L. Mishustina, I. Zbronzhko, V. Kolodeznikov, S. Krasavchenko, M. Fedorova, V. Bragin, Yu. Yeltsov, Yu. Khrulev, M. Durasov, L. Volkov, B. Manannikov, A. Kuznetsov, Yu. Luchinskiy, G. Veretennikov, A. Paramonov, Yu. Katasonov, G. Gorelov, V. Sumarov, A. Klimenok, S. Yakovlev, Yu. Sergeyev, A. Kopeyka, S. Zasukhin, N. Sivova, B. Kononov, Yu. Khranchenkov, Yu. Moskvich, A. Kobzev, V. Dyakonov, V. Udovenko, V. Ryumin, V. Mironov, G. Bogomolov, B. Zolotukhin, A. Mikitayev, G. Zadonskiy, A. Surkov, I. Bezrukov, Ya. Matchak

Hearings on START Ratification Scheduled for 29 Mar

OW1503193993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The next round of parliamentary hearings on preparations for the Supreme Soviet's ratification of the START II Treaty is planned to begin March 29. Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Issues of Defense and Security, told INTERFAX this on Monday [15 March].

He explained that the two-week postponement was made at the request of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, whose leadership believes that "the hearings have thus far been somewhat one-sided." The committee's leadership plans to bring in independent experts. In addition, Stepanov said, upon invitation from the Russian parliament on March 18-19 a large delegation—up to 12 people—from the U.S. Congress will visit Moscow. The delegation will be led by Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee Sam Nunn. On March 19 Vice President of the North Atlantic Assembly Karsten Foyt will also arrive in Moscow.

Stepashin stressed that they are coming to Moscow not only out of their desire to participate in preparations for the START II ratification, but also due to their "serious concern with the situation which developed after the Congress of People's Deputies regarding the violation of the political balance in Russia."

The chairman of the parliamentary committee expressed his wish that at the parliamentary hearings supporters

and opponents of START II would present a measured military, political, and technical analyses of the document, and "not limit themselves to emotional and highly unsubstantiated charges that (the treaty) does not correspond to Russia's interests, as was the case at the first round of hearings."

Regional Affairs

Kozyrev Arrives in Kaliningrad 15 Mar

LD1503095693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906
GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad March 15 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Kaliningrad region today for a brief visit. He is to visit the restricted-access Baltic Fleet naval base in the city of Baltiisk and meet with the command and personnel of combatant ships, and regional executives.

Later in the day, the minister is to leave by air for Vilnius on his way to Helsinki where a session of the Baltic Sea Council opens on Tuesday. The council was set up a year ago.

Comments on Ties With Lithuania

LD1503130693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234
GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Biryukov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Baltiisk, Kaliningrad region March 15 TASS— "Russia has no serious problems in relations with Lithuania, like those which are hampering its dialogue with Latvia and Estonia, although the two countries have a lot of issues to settle. These include Lithuania's avoidance to sign the agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops and on social guarantees for servicemen, which does not allow us to stick to the schedule of the troop withdrawal from Lithuania," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today, addressing sailors of the main naval base of the Baltic Fleet.

He said that the Russian Foreign Ministry constantly kept in mind the "Kaliningrad factor", when holding talks with Lithuania. Kozyrev intends to discuss a wide range of problems, connected with the Kaliningrad region, during his meeting with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas in Vilnius today. Lithuania's intention to introduce a visa regime for Russian citizens, who enter the republic or go across its territory, affects directly the interests of Kaliningrad residents.

After visiting Baltiisk and Kaliningrad, Kozyrev will go to Lithuania and from there to Helsinki.

Briefs Naval Officers

LD1503144793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354
GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Biryukov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Baltiisk, Kaliningrad region, March 15 TASS— "One can now hardly speak, from a practical point of view, about the existence of a direct military threat to our interests," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said on Monday [15 March] when addressing navy men at the main naval base of the Baltic Fleet.

A programme for his brief visit to this restricted-access town includes meetings with Kaliningrad region executives and fleet commanders, a visit to the Neustrashimy patrol ship and an address before the officers of the Baltic naval squadron.

"Huge funds have been invested over almost half a century in the establishment of a superarmed beachhead here," Kozyrev said. "Those efforts have resulted in an undermined economy and a host of most acute social problems. A renunciation of such a policy is viewed by some people as a voluntary relinquishment of super-power positions. But this is not so. We are getting rid of the NATO-is-a-threat mentality, since NATO has also ceased regarding us as a source of a military aggression, including that in the Baltics."

"This does not mean that we should disarm ourselves as heedlessly as we used to arm ourselves at some time," the minister stated. "No one abolished the task of ensuring our impressive military presence in the Baltics. But we must learn to uphold national state interests without strangling either the region or the entire country and without turning them into a besieged fortress and to integrate them into normal international contacts".

"Strength and self-confidence are also needed to rule out a probability of the emergence of new threats to our security," Kozyrev emphasised.

"The more so as extremist groups in Germany and some neighbouring countries have not abandoned their mad plans aimed at annexing Kaliningrad region. The region is reliably protected from destructive extremism by the Final Act of the Helsinki and by new treaties with Poland and Germany. A treaty with Lithuania is being prepared as well."

The minister said the Foreign Ministry constantly bears in mind the "Kaliningrad factor" in Russo-Lithuanian relations. He said he intended to discuss a wide range of matters concerning the region during his forthcoming meeting with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas in Vilnius later in the day.

Kozyrev said there are quite a number of unresolved issues in relations between Lithuania and Russia, although there are no such problems that complicate the dialogue with Latvia and Estonia.

The issues concern the Lithuanians' efforts to evade signing agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops and on social guarantees for the servicemen, which does not make it possible to withdraw troops in Lithuania on schedule.

The interests of people in Kaliningrad are directly affected by Lithuania's intention to introduce visa procedures for citizens of Russia for entry into and transit through the republic.

A "real fundamental change, a breakthrough to a new level of trust has taken place in relations between Russia and Poland, and this new climate must be used to restore the slackened economic contacts," the Russian foreign minister said.

He highly appreciated Kaliningrad region's business cooperation with neighbouring Polish voivodships and the establishment of more than 100 joint ventures in the yantar (amber) free economic zone.

It is important that the local administration when developing international contacts, acts in close cooperation with federal agencies, not in circumvention of them, Kozyrev stressed.

The attention of the Council of the Baltic Sea States has been drawn to the realisation of projects for the development of the region, the minister said. A package of proposals on the reconstruction of the airport and seaports at Svetliy and Baltiisk, and the modernisation of the Kaliningrad-Berlin highway. Within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Russia also intends to tackle the question of Western participation in the programme for the provision of amenities for troops being withdrawn from the Baltics.

Calls For 'Imposing Military Presence'

OW1503184493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1751 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Monday [15 March] spoke of the necessity of Russia maintaining an "imposing military presence" on the Baltic Sea.

Appearing at a meeting of sailors in Baltiisk (in the Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia), the minister said that currently one could not talk about the existence of a direct military threat to Russia's interests in the Baltic area. At the same time, he noted, a Russian military presence is essential so that Russia, conscious of the solidity of its positions, can confidently pursue its policy in the region. "Otherwise," said the minister, "we will be squeezed out."

According to Kozyrev, Kaliningrad Oblast is an exceptionally important link for the strategic and economic interests of Russia in the Baltic and "an indivisible and undisputed part of Russia."

Touching on Russia's relations with the states in the region, Kozyrev noted that prospects with Lithuania are "not bad." "Here," said the minister, "we have no serious problems such as those complicating the dialogue in Latvia and Estonia. President Algirdas Brazauskas' statements reassure us that relations between Lithuania and Russia will become even better and will be based on mutual respect and understanding. We are all for it," he emphasized.

At the same time, he noted that there remains a fair number of unresolved problems with Vilnius. The main one is the withdrawal of the Lithuanians from signing an agreement on the withdrawal of Russian forces and one on guarantees for servicemen and retired soldiers. Another problem mentioned was Lithuania's intention to introduce visa requirements for entry into, and travel across, the republic by Russian citizens.

Comments on Results of Congress

OW1503143693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, declared on Monday [15 March] that there is no need to dramatize the results of the emergency Congress of Russian People's Deputies. According to him, "there is no need to view the democrats and democracy in Russia as buried." "The main thing is to prevent verbal battles from turning into an armed civil clash. This is inadmissible. Arms should belong to the army, and the army should remain beyond politics," said the head of Russian diplomacy, addressing the crew of the coast guard ship "Neustrashimiy" (Fearless) in the city of Baltiisk.

Subsequently Andrey Kozyrev addressed a meeting at the Naval Officers' House in Baltiisk. We must not speak about a direct military threat to Russian interests existing in the Baltic region, he pointed out. Nevertheless he noted that the task of ensuring our "impressive military presence" in the Baltic region still remains. According to Kozyrev, such a presence is required to enable Russia to pursue its policy in the region confidently, knowing that its positions are firm. "Otherwise we'll be pushed around," he said.

According to Kozyrev, for Russia, Kaliningrad Region is an extremely important junction of military, strategic and economic interests in the Baltic area, as well as "an integral and indisputable part of Russia."

Ends Visit, Leaves for Vilnius

LD1503164793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Biryukov, Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Kaliningrad March 15 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev ended a brief visit to Kaliningrad on Monday [15 March]. The Russian foreign minister visited the main naval base of the Baltic Fleet in the city of Baltiysk where he met with the fleet commander, commanders of units and the personnel of Navy ships.

Later in the day Kozyrev left by air for Vilnius where he is expected to meet with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and representatives of the Russian community. In the evening Andrey Kozyrev will go to Helsinki where a session of the Council of Baltic States is to open on March 16.

North Ossetia Recognizes South Ossetia, Defies Moscow

MK1203152093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 93 p 3

[Liana Minasyan article: "Concerning the Recognition of the South Ossetian Republic by the North Ossetian SSR"]

[Text] Even if the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, in adopting a decision to recognize the independence of South Ossetia, acted regardless of the will and intentions of the federal authorities, it is highly unlikely that in making its decision it was completely free from the influence of South Ossetian leaders, who are obviously concerned over the subject and progress of the Russian-Georgian talks, especially their military aspect. Therefore the Supreme Soviet's decision should have pointed to the presence of a "third," special opinion. Moreover, the timing of the "demonstration" was rather special—the supreme authorities of Russia are busy with their own internal problems, and in this situation the former autonomies are losing no time in trying to show that Russian policy is made not only in the Kremlin. However, the move by the North Ossetia parliament, which has "unobtrusively" demonstrated the extent to which federal and regional policy diverge, cannot remain an internal Russian problem—although Moscow was in no hurry to state its attitude toward the decision made in Vladikavkaz, invective from Tbilisi followed immediately. There, the behavior of the "federation subject" was perceived as unacceptable impudence, especially given that up until now the "moderate and discreet" behavior of Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the North Ossetian SSR, has been commended by the Georgian leadership.

The South Ossetian leaders, who strongly complained that the material aid promised by Moscow and Tbilisi under the Dagomys agreement had never reached Tskhinvali, have now received moral support instead. Since its legal side is not incontestable (North Ossetia at least has not yet proclaimed its own independence), at best this can mean that all the parties directly involved in the South Ossetian crisis continue to increase their political claims (Tbilisi, by far from refusing to discuss the status of South Ossetia, even in a pro-Soviet form;

Tskhinval, by winning recognition from Vladikavkaz). The whimsical behavior of the Caucasian republics is embarrassing to Moscow: Their willfulness is hitting one target: Russian-Georgian relations. True, whereas in the Abkhaz conflict one had to deal with informal organizations like the KNK [Committee of Peoples of the Caucasus], this time the virus has affected the legal authorities of Ossetia. As to whether the state structures in Russia are manageable—this question is still open.

Ingush Republic To Institute Presidential Apparatus

LD1203182093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 11 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran, (North Caucasus), 11 Mar—The first decree of the head of the Ingush Republic will be on establishing the presidential apparatus, its structure, and staffing level. The apparatus will be small but efficient, and will be made up of professionals. This was announced today to an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Ruslan Pliyev, leader of the Ingush presidential apparatus.

The structure of the presidential apparatus will be made up of:

A group of the president's advisers and assistants; ministry inspectors; the Department of Information; analysis and forecasting; and a chancellery. It is proposed to establish the post of vice president of the Ingush Republic which will be responsible for the bodies of the power structures.

A Presidential Council will also operate under the president—a consultative body consisting of scientists, experts with practical experience, and representatives of the clergy. There will be around 40 people in the president's team. Its members will be announced in the days ahead.

The creation of a Security Council headed by the president of the Ingush Republic is also proposed. Once the structures of presidential power have been established, the Cabinet of Ministers will be appointed by a decree of the president.

As regards the parliamentary elections intended for April this year, they will in all probability be postponed until a later date or not take place at all. Local observers also do not exclude some other form of power in the Ingush Republic, possibly a presidential form of administration.

President Bans Political Activities

LD1303200493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 13 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran (Ingushetia, North Caucasus) 13 Mar—Ingush Republic President Ruslan Aushev signed a decree today banning the activities of all political parties and organizations during the period of the state of emergency. Aushev told ITAR-TASS that after the state of emergency expires on 31 March, he intends to get the Russian forces to withdraw from the territory of Ingushetia. Aushev believes that the state of emergency could be prolonged only on the territory of the Prigorodnyy rayon of North Ossetia.

Moreover, Aushev revealed that he presented his approaches toward resolving the problem of the Prigorodnyy rayon and the return of the refugees at a meeting in Moscow with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. Aushev believes that presidential rule should be declared in the Prigorodnyy rayon and that the return of the refugees to their homes should be ensured.

New Government Being Formed

LD1403184393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 14 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran March 14 TASS—The formation of a new government has begun in Ingushetia.

Ruslan Takiyev, 39, has been appointed chairman of the Ingush Cabinet of Ministers by a decree issued by the Ingush President Ruslan Aushev on Sunday.

Earlier, Takiyev was chairman of the Regional Council of Sunzhensk Region.

Kambulat Parov, former deputy head of the Ingush temporal administration, has been appointed first deputy head of the government.

Decrees were signed on the establishment of ministries and appointment of ministers for security, health care and social welfare, the press and information.

Ruslan Pliyev, head of the president's administration, told ITAR-TASS that the establishment of presidential structures and the Ingush Cabinet of Ministers would be completed in the next few days.

Today, President Ruslan Aushev met with Deputy Colonel-General Yuriy Shatalin, deputy head of the temporary administration of the territory on which a state of emergency was imposed. During the meeting the two discussed problems of contact between Ingush bodies of power and structures of the temporary administration.

Situation 'Tense' in North Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD1203165393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 12 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 12 TASS—The situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia remains tense. ITAR-TASS has learned from officials of the interim administration headquarters here today. This is explained by the fact that no exchanges of hostages have been carried out by both sides in the state of emergency region of the two republics for three months running. Moreover, the local population has large amounts of firearms on hand and illegal armed formations have not been disbanded yet.

On March 10 some unidentified men opened submachine-gun fire from a passing freight train on a Russian Army patrol, manning a checkpoint near the village of Komarovo in the Mosdok district of North Ossetia. Luckily there were no casualties.

On March 11 members of the Russian Interior Ministry investigation team, jointly with men from the joint inquiry team of the General Procurator's Office, the Russian Ministries of Security and Internal Affairs, found three submachine-guns, one machine-gun, 17 grenades, 6 home-made explosive devices, 10 TT blocks, and more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition in the village of Kambeleyevskaya, the Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia. They were all hidden in the homes of local inhabitants. The guilty are under arrest.

The joint investigation team's lawful actions are lately encountering frequent resistance in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. For instance, there were cases when its members were seized as hostages and promised to be freed in exchange for suspects or criminals.

In light of this, Justice Counsellor Aleksandr Shchukin, head of the investigation team, said that such extremist actions complicated the inquiry and interfered with the efforts to find the missing, to locate places where the killed are buried, to assess the damages, and to bring to trial people guilty of various crimes. This contradicts the interests of the peaceful population in both republics, involved in the conflict.

"Every lawful measure, up to and including the use of firearms and special means, shall be used against people capturing and holding hostages, as well as people obstructing the inquiry," says a document recently released here.

Confiscation of Arms Continues

OW1203184993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the past 24 hours in the zone of the state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia officials confiscated 33 submachine guns, 1 machine gun, 11 grenades, 1 hand gun, 4 magazines with cartridges, 7 explosive devices, and 4655 cartridges of varying calibres. This was reported by an INTERFAX correspondent in Vladikavkaz, citing information from the North Ossetian Interior Ministry.

At present the state of emergency is in effect only in the Prigorodnyy Region of North Ossetia and the Nazran Region of Ingushetia.

State of Emergency Maintained

LD1403181393 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1624 GMT 14 Mar 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 14 TASS—Over the past twenty four hours the situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia remained unchanged. Units of the Russian peace-keeping force continue to maintain a state of emergency imposed in the area.

However, the headquarters of the regional administration reported that the situation was not calm in Ingushetia, where the formation of local bodies of power began following presidential elections. At present, there are over 42,000 refugees in Ingushetia, while hostages are not being exchanged. For the time being, over 327 applications asking to search for missing people have been handed in to the Russian Interior Ministry search team.

According to the Russian Interior Ministry's Investigation Department, over the past twenty four hours 72 people were detained for violating a curfew and a state of emergency, 20 crimes and accidents were reported, over 5,000 cars were examined. A total of 12 fire arms, grenades, explosive devices and over 1,000 cartridges of different caliber were confiscated from local residents.

The press service accredited at Ossetian-Ingush talks reported that representatives of expert groups of the two republics should submit documents on the settlement of refugee problem on March 15, which will serve as a basis for a dialogue between plenipotentiary delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia due to begin in Kislovodsk on March 16 with mediators from Dagestan and Stavropol region.

Law To Be Enforced With Arms

LD1503174193 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1731 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 15 *ITAR-TASS*—The leaders of the Allied Investigation and Law Enforcement Task-Force in the North Ossetian and Ingush republics said in a statement today that arms and "special means" will be used against people who impede the groups' activity in the area of the ethnic conflict and infringe on the interests of peaceful civilians in the two republics.

The Information and Press Centre of the Russian Procurator-General's Office explained the move by referring to increasing pressure against the group in the region through hostage taking and demands that people detained on charges or suspicion of involvement in crimes be exchanged for hostages.

These acts prevent the due investigation of crimes and causes of the conflict and are at variance with moral and legal principles of the civilized world, the statement said.

Pipeline in North Ossetia Sabotaged

OW1503214793 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1750 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A pipeline was exploded by saboteurs in the village of Chermen, North Ossetia's Suburban district. *INTERFAX* was told in the press center of the provisional administration of the emergency zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Two blasts damaged also the transformer network and collectors.

Power supply to Chermen which is on the North Ossetian border with Ingushetia is expected to resume on March 15. The pipeline is under repair.

North Ossetian, Ingush 'Experts' Discuss Refugees

OW1203121393 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1054 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting on Friday [12 March] in Terek, Kabardino-Balkaria, experts from North Ossetia and Ingushetia are planning to formulate basic principles for dealing with the problem of Ingush refugees from Vladikavkaz and Prigorodnyy Region.

The North Ossetians are going to propose that new villages be built in Prigorodnyy Region to settle Ingushes in them. North Ossetian Deputy Prime Minister Elbrus Kargiyev believes Ossetians and Ingushes can no longer live together.

He told *Interfax* on Friday that the meeting should work out conditions for Ingush refugees' return to Prigorodnyy Region, one of them being an official statement on the part of the Ingush Republic's leadership to the effect that it no longer lays claim to any part of North Ossetian territory. Another important condition for a refugee receiving permission to return to the region would be his nonparticipation in the hostilities there in October and November 1992, the Deputy Premier said. The North Ossetian authorities will not contemplate the return to the region of any refugees who were not North Ossetian citizens, he said.

Further on Meeting

LD1303145993 Moscow *Mayak Radio Network in Russian* 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] A meeting of expert groups of the plenipotentiary delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia in the town

of Terek in Kabarda-Balkaria took place today. Problems connected with holding the next round of the negotiating process in Kislovodsk and the return of refugees to the settlements of Prigorodnyy rayon were focused upon.

Meanwhile, according to the data of the provisional administration, the situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia in the past has not changed noticeably. Russia's peacekeeping forces are continuing to implement measures to maintain the state-of-emergency regime.

Groups Conclude Meeting

LD1303190793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1744
GMT 13 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 13 TASS—The meeting of expert groups from North Ossetian and Ingush plenipotentiary delegations has been held in the town of Terek, Kabardino-Balkariya.

The meeting focused on holding of another round of negotiations in Kislovodsk and return of refugees to populated localities of the Prigorodny region.

The Ossetian and Ingush sides outlined basic approaches to the solution of the refugee issue, head of the temporary administration's negotiations process service and representative of the Russian state committee on federations and nationalities' affairs Vladimir Ugrovatov told ITAR-TASS. Compact settlement of forced refugees, who return to the North Ossetian Prigorodny region, would be a real step towards the problem solution.

In the opinion of Ugrovatov, it is necessary to set up a mixed commission with participation of federal bodies under the temporary administration to make lists and register refugees, coordinate issues related to the observation of constitutional laws and normative acts on human rights, ensure safety of citizens in the conflict zone and solve social problems.

After listening to the opinion of expert groups, the negotiations process service introduced its draft document on solution of the refugee issue, which takes into account the views of the Ossetian and Ingush sides. The draft will be discussed in detail in Vladikavkaz and Nazran, and on March 15 on the eve of the Kislovodsk meeting of North Ossetian and Ingush delegations both sides will pass over texts of their variants on the refugee issue to the negotiations process service.

Ugrovatov stressed only counter steps and mutual compromises can bring real results for the achievement of peace and concord in the region.

Meanwhile, according to the information of the temporary administration headquarters, the situation in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia has not considerably

changed over the past 24 hours. Russian peace-makers fully control the situation and continue to upkeep the state of emergency regime.

Personnel of the Russian interior ministry's operative-investigation group was replaced in the armed conflict zone, as staffers from the Saratov, Rostov, Penza, Volgograd and Voronezh regions came to Vladikavkaz and Nazran.

According to the information from the North Ossetian Council of Ministers, an act of sabotage reported from outside the Chermen settlement in the Prigorodny region on March 12 introduced certain tension in the region. Unidentified persons blasted a transformer substation and two gas collectors, thus, terminating gas and electricity supply to the eastern part of the settlement. Gas and electricity repair services are working round-the-clock in Chermen. Fuel and energy supply is expected to resume on Monday.

Ten people were detained for violating the curfew, 20 crimes and incidents were registered and about 4,000 cars were inspected over the past 24 hours in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia. Transport communications are under special control of police details. Eight flights were inspected at the Vladikavkaz and Ingushetia airports, and 18 trains were inspected at the Vladikavkaz, Nazran and Beslan stations. No items prohibited for transportation were revealed.

President Criticizes Refugee Plan

OW1503132993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruslan Aushev, President of Ingushetia, said North Ossetia's plan of building villages in its Prigorodnyy Region to settle returning Ingush refugees was an attempt to "create reservations for Ingush." He told INTERFAX on Monday [15 March] that the refugees "are going to return only to their own homes on the territory of Prigorodnyy Region." According to Aushev, the return of the Ingush refugees, who are North Ossetian citizens, to their places of permanent residence is above all a problem for North Ossetia and Russia. Ingushetia, in his opinion, should discuss not their return as such but the extent of its participation in the process. The president believes the North Ossetian leadership is using "procrastination tactics" in dealing with the refugees, whose number on Ingushetian territory has reached some 49,000, according to the federal migration service.

Aushev said the North Ossetian plan might start a practice whereby larger ethnic communities would be ousting smaller ones in all republics of the Russian Federation.

Meanwhile, Aushev has suspended the activities of all political parties and organizations in Ingushetia during

the state of emergency. He also controls the entire executive branch in the republic.

A government is currently being formed in Ingushetia. Aushev gave the post of prime minister to Ruslan Tatiyev, chairman of the Sunzhensk District Council. An 11-member presidential council has also been set up.

Dudayev Says Russians Behind Chechens' Death in UK

PM1203122193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 93 p 4

[L. Krutakov report: "Dudayev Claims: Hand of Moscow Reached London"]

[Text] "We plan no terrorist acts in London. Chechnya will never sink to killings for political reasons. The only thing we demand is a competent and objective investigation into the circumstances of the killing of Ruslan Utsiyev, the president's chief adviser on foreign economic issues, and his brother Nazarbek. We do not recognize any investigation without the participation of Chechnya's official representatives, with access to all the materials of the case," Dzhokhar Dudayev declared yesterday in a telephone conversation with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent. "It is clear now, however, that the roots of the killing are in Russia."

So London can sleep easy. The sensational crime, which reverberated around the world, has been almost cleared up in Grozny. True, as the investigation is progressing, Scotland Yard is increasingly inclined to consider that the Utsiyev brothers were the victims of the international mafia with an interest in the metals trade.

Putting the killing of the Utsiyevs in London on a par with the blowing up of a passenger railcar in Chechnya and with the deaths of several Chechens in criminal altercations in Moscow, Dzhokhar Dudayev accounted for all this as a major diversion against Chechnya and its citizens organized by the Russian special services—specifically by the Fourth Directorate of the former KGB. Dudayev named Shakhrai and Abdulatipov among the organizers of the diversion with the specific aim of trying to discredit Khasbulatov on the eve of the congress and ultimately to overthrow him (!).

True, there is not a great deal of proof of this version, and Dudayev cited as the main proof the delay over issuing visas to the official Chechen delegation which has gone to London to conduct its own investigation into the killing.

"My accusations are not groundless," Dzhokhar Dudayev concluded. "They are based on operational data. Ruslan Utsiyev's trip was preceded by a mutual accord at parliamentary level between Chechnya and Britain, and talks were held in Grozny. Ruslan worked under my control and reported on victimization. I asked him to return, but he promised to arrange everything and to travel to the republic by 10 March. He did not have

time. The Utsiyevs had a 'cover'—external observation—and my conclusions are based on data from that observation."

In addition to the two aforementioned versions, there is also a third one: The Utsiyev brothers were punished by their own colleagues for some deviation from the "official" mission and for using the funds obtained for personal ends. Which of the three is true?

Deaths Said Linked to 'American Mafia'

LD1503152293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430
GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Solomin]

[Text] London March 15 TASS—The Chechen brothers—Ruslan and Nazarbek Utsiyev—who were killed in London early this month, engaged in negotiations with U.S. businessman Joseph Ripp, who had been earlier caught out in having close connections with the American mafia.

It has become known to THE TIMES newspaper that the question of granting a credit of 173 million sterling to Chechnya for the construction of industrial facilities was discussed during talks in December 1992.

The credit was to be guaranteed by a large-scale supply of oil from Chechnya. Ripp's name had long been known to the police. He had repeatedly tried to conclude multi-million fraudulent deals in Britain such as for example arranging the allocation of a credit of 2,770 million sterling to Somalia in exchange for the right to exploit all its oil reserves.

Officially Ripp introduces himself as the president of the Investors Corporation of America, a subsidiary of a Florida-based transcontinental financial group. Its chief executive was convicted by a U.S. court for shady financial transactions and is now in prison.

It follows from a confidential report, which was prepared by the Pennsylvania Commission for Criminal Affairs and which turned up in the hands of the London police, that Ripp had long been at odds with justice. In 1984 he was sentenced by a Pittsburgh court to four years' imprisonment for fraud.

It is also clear from the report that the U.S. "businessman" maintained close contacts with the American mafia and Marcobusiness [as received] dealers. Moreover, Ripp was a "business partner" of professional killer Raymondo Martorano known as "Long John" who is serving a long prison term for the murder of a trade union figure from Philadelphia.

The activities of the Chechen brothers themselves attracted the most close attention of police. According to an official version of the Chechen leadership, the Chechen brothers arrived in London to conclude a contract for the manufacture of passports, banknotes and postage stamps for the republic.

The brothers were under police surveillance for several weeks on suspicion of pumping large funds from West German businessmen whom they promised the deliveries of raw materials on lucrative terms.

Large funds in western currencies were transferred to the brothers' accounts at London banks. The Utsiyev brothers, who came to the British capital, in November, bought a luxury apartment in the ritzy district of Marylebone in December for one million sterling and fitted it out with expensive furniture. They rented another apartment and, in general, lived in style.

Two Armenians—Nrkish [as received] Martirosyan and Gagik Ter-Oganessian—have been arrested on suspicion of committing the murder. Using a truck, they had brought a box with the dismembered body of one of the brothers to a private garage. They were arraigned before a London court, where the examination of the involved case has been going on for almost two weeks now.

Chechen Parliament Says Cabinet's Work Unsatisfactory

OW1203153193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chechen Parliament has declared the republican cabinet's activities in 1992 unsatisfactory. A total of 26 out of 41 deputies voted for this decision. Members of parliament criticized the government for its inability to bring the country out of the severe economic crisis.

Parliament nevertheless refrained from discussing a decision of no confidence in the cabinet of ministers.

Presently, Republican President Dzhokhar Dudayev is also working as the prime minister of Chechnya.

More Security at Press Offices After Dudayev Comments

LD1403050293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Security has been stepped up at Grozny's Press House, which accommodates the editorial offices of Chechen newspapers. According to EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA, the Chechen parliament decided to introduce this measure in response to General Dudayev's threats against the press. The head of the administration has recently expressed his indignation over the absence of positive news published in the newspapers. If there is no change in the situation, Dudayev said, infuriated people will demolish editorial offices and smash the skulls of journalists.

Chechen Aide Involved in Anticorruption Probe Killed

LD1503074293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] EKSPRESS KHRONIKA has reported that (Viktor Payko), an official in the Chechen Cabinet of Ministers and a member of a parliamentary commission investigating the misappropriation of petroleum products and currency, was shot on his way to work yesterday from a passing car. The Chechen Cabinet of Ministers has denied any link between this murder and the recent murders of Ruslan Utsiyev, the Chechen president's adviser on foreign economic issues, and his brother in London.

Unofficial sources have said that (Viktor Payko) had something to do with the Department of External Economic Activities in the Ministry of Petrochemical Industry. It is thought that the murder was carried out with the aim of frightening members of the parliamentary commission and putting an end to the investigation.

Dangers of Tatar Secession Campaign Viewed

PM1503120993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 93 First Edition p6

[Article by Professor Yuriy Reshetov, doctor of juridical sciences and Republic of Tatarstan people's deputy: "Can Tatarstan Say 'Yes' If Kazan Says 'No'?"]

[Text] The present political situation in the republics within Russia can, without exaggeration, be termed a product of the previous system. This is perhaps most clearly apparent in Tatarstan, where the formation of statehood is moving more quickly than in other republics.

The fact that outmoded dogmas and myths are still current in the republic's political lexicon is worrying. The interpretation of nation as ethnic community, for example. In the international political lexicon, this concept is primarily interpreted as fellow citizenship, a social association of citizens of the state in question.

The republic also seriously believes that a democratic state system means guaranteeing a nation's right to self-determination and to freely choose the form of its statehood. Moreover, it claims that, at some stage in its development, every ethnic group must inevitably raise the question of its state independence.

No less dangerous to Russia's statehood is the fact that the republic rejects the very idea of equal status for state and administrative formations within the Russian Federation. A desire to see the Federation asymmetrically is being expressed at the highest level.

All this is playing into the hands of those sociopolitical forces in Tatarstan which favor the republic's state separation from the Russian Federation.

This is convincingly demonstrated by the following examples: the organization and activity of a national assembly; attempts to introduce Tatar as the sole state language in the republic; program aims and statements by the leaders of national movements and parties on developing and implementing Tatar statehood primarily in the interests of the Tatars, on endeavoring to "restore historical justice" by achieving full independence for the Republic of Tatarstan, the only state for the Tatar people, and on creating a Russian state in Russian territory; purposeful action to form an essentially mononational state authority in the republic; and much more.

At the same time, zealous efforts are being made to sustain the idea that, in order to give Tatar sovereignty real meaning, the republic should pursue an independent domestic and foreign state policy, establish equal, interstate relations with the Russian Federation, and function as a state with full, rather than partial, international legal status.

Why is this approach flawed, even wrong? Primarily because it offers no alternative and is unidimensional.

It is very remarkable that its supporters show no inclination to conduct a dialogue on the condition and prospects of Tatar statehood and refuse to abandon their monopoly on the truth. Human civilization is past the stage where the state decides strictly class and ethnic matters.

Some people are even taking the liberty of dividing nations which have genetically grown together in thousands of mixed families over the course of many generations, urging them to sacrifice themselves for the sake of creating an independent, ethnonational state.

Of course, the idea of self-sacrifice in politics should not be discounted. It was one of the finest, most attractive ideas to loyally serve the Soviet totalitarian system. But it also should not be overestimated.

It should be said, incidentally, that Tatars make up 48 percent of the population of Tatarstan. Actions which aim to achieve the Republic of Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation are failing to rally people and do not have the fundamental approval of the majority of the population.

Take, for example, the results of the republic-wide opinion poll conducted by the sociological research sector of the Tatar Supreme Soviet on 5-17 June 1992. The majority (64.5 percent) believe that the republic must realize its sovereignty within the framework of the Russian Federation. Only 22.1 percent of respondents supported the development of Tatarstan's state sovereignty outside of Russia.

Obviously, the Supreme Soviet should take account of this. But the wishes of politicians striving to live in a separate state are gaining the upper hand. These politicians are making a determined attempt at the Supreme

Soviet session to get constitutional backing for a policy of state isolation from the Russian Federation.

However, this political action is at variance with the Tatar Supreme Soviet's own decisions. On 16 March 1992, for example, it adopted the resolution "On Explaining the Wording of the Question in the Republic of Tatarstan Referendum Scheduled for 21 March 1992." The second paragraph of this resolution said that the Republic of Tatarstan's state isolation from the Russian Federation and changes to its territorial integrity and borders were not the subject of the referendum.

Nevertheless, even with this explanation, a convincing "yes" was not forthcoming in the referendum. Here are the results of voting during the republic referendum in the city of Kazan. The capital is now divided into 76 districts for elections of Republic of Tatarstan people's deputies. On 21 March, voters in 50 of these districts said "no."

As far as the new Republic of Tatarstan Constitution is concerned, it cannot be considered faultless from either a political or a legal point of view. Why? As is well known, the viability of the Constitution is closely bound up with its stability. But how can one speak of reliability and stability if it fails to observe a balance of interests of Tatarstan's main sociopolitical forces?

The following must also be mentioned in this connection. Answering questions by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Tatar President M. Shaymiyev said that, "the closer we get to the date of the all-Russian referendum, the more acute the question of Russia and Tatarstan signing a treaty will become. Because, if a formula is not found by that time, there may not be a referendum in Tatarstan."

It is hard to agree with this. After all, even the new Republic of Tatarstan Constitution, which clearly aims to achieve Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation, does not strip citizens of the Republic of Tatarstan of their Russian citizenship. Admittedly, this has been attempted.

It should be said that those who support the Republic of Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation have no original justification for their actions, which are at variance with the norms of the present Russian Federation Constitution.

For example, one cannot agree with leaders' claim that on 21 May 1992 the Constitution passed its first reading. After all, only 146 deputies voted for it at the time; a simple majority, in other words, rather than the necessary majority of the deputy corps, which numbers 250 people. Moreover, only 165 deputies took part in the vote, so the necessary quorum was lacking. On the whole, it is still too early to talk of a rule-of-law state in the Republic of Tatarstan.

I often hear and read about the possibility of the Russian Federation breaking up. If the federal leadership does

not treat this problem seriously. Russia really is "in with a chance" of following the USSR's example.

Tatarstan Issues Military Service Decree

PM1203122993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Major Aleksandr Kholod of the Volga Military District Press Center: "Tatstan Recalls Its Citizens from Troublespots"]

[Text] The Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet's 14th session has examined and adopted a decree "on military service obligation and military service for citizens of the Republic of Tatarstan."

Under this resolution military service by the republic's citizens in regions of interethnic and territorial conflicts throughout the territory of the former Union and beyond it is authorized exclusively on a voluntary and contract basis. This same document instructs the Tatarstan Cabinet of Ministers to take steps to recall citizens of the republic doing military service in these regions.

MiG-31 Crashes 10 Mar; Crew 'Forced To Eject'

PM1503135593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 93 p 1

[Valeriy Kovalev report: "MiG-31 Crashes, Rescuers Excel"]

[Text] Khabarovsk—On 10 March a MiG-31 fighter-interceptor from an air defense unit based at Kamchatka

suffered an accident while carrying out a night flight at 11,000 meters. After taking all measures to save the aircraft, the crew was forced to eject.

Rescue helicopter crewmen under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Umrikhin sped to the scene of the accident and ferried the MiG crew to their home airfield. The causes of the accident are under investigation by an official commission.

Oil Spills in Pipeline Accident 14 Mar

OW1503135293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An explosion and fire took place on the main Anzhero-Sudzhensk-Irkutsk oil pipeline in the Krasnoyarsk region on 14 March. INTERFAX has been told by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs public relations division that the accident happened in the region around the village of Nizhnyaya Poima in the Nizhneingash region.

According to preliminary information, some 5000 tons of oil were spilled, partly into the Reshetka River, as a result of the accident. The latest information states that the fire has been extinguished. Railway service on the Uyar-Taishet stretch of track is being detoured, but continues. There were no casualties. The reason for the accident and the damage are being established now, and measures have been taken to control and repair the damage.

International Affairs

Grinev Links Reforms' Success to Russian Progress

OW1503152193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The success of economic reforms in Ukraine lies in direct dependence with their progress in Russia, says Vladimir Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliament. In an interview for Interfax, he said he was hopeful that "all progressive Russians will stand up to support Yeltsin at this difficult time for him."

In touching on the relations between the legislative and executive power branches in Ukraine, Mr Grinev suggested that the incumbent Ukrainian government is likely to exhaust the potential of its auxiliary powers as soon as in May, finding itself in a most precarious situation unless the parliament agreed to prolong them. He said he was convinced that most of the Ukrainian law-makers would not support the government." [no opening quotation marks as received]

Officials Express 'Alarm'

OW1503210093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The success of economic reforms in Ukraine depends directly on the success of the same in Russia, according to parliament's deputy speaker Vladimir Grinev. Grinev told INTERFAX in Kiev that the "increasing opposition to the Russian authorities was assuming an unpredictable character and that this could only cause alarm in Kiev." Grinev expressed the hope that "the whole of progressive Russia would support Boris Yeltsin at this difficult time for him."

Vyacheslav Chornovil, the leader of Ukraine's Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroika], said that there was "no more democratic politician than President Boris Yeltsin" in Russia today. "If Yeltsin departs Russia will receive at best a leader like Rutskoy, a harsh and non-reform minded man, and at worst someone like Zhirinovskiy, who would be dangerous both for Russians and Ukrainians."

Yeltsin's defeat at the Congress of People's Deputies was caused mainly by "the disintegration of the democratic movement in Russia," Chornovil considered. He said that there was "not one real movement" on the Russian arena with which Ukrainian democrats could coordinate their efforts.

Yuriy Zbitnyev, the chairman of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, has said that a victory by "chauvinistic movements" in Russia could strengthen "imperialist tendencies" in Moscow and "infringements on Ukraine's territorial integrity."

At the same time, he said, recent events in Moscow were giving opponents of Ukraine's non-nuclear status the opportunity to delay the ratification by the Ukrainian parliament of the START-I treaty.

Zbitnyev said that Ukraine's generals were ready to declare nuclear weapons in Ukraine a "necessary deterrent factor." "This tactic could prove totally successful bearing in mind that we have not yet received adequate security guarantees from Russia," the social democrat leader stressed.

Aleksandr Yemets, the Ukrainian president's legal adviser, told INTERFAX that the "Russian conservatives" included those who supported the idea of "revitalizing the USSR." Therefore Ukraine must back Russia's reformers "at least morally," he said.

Yemets considered, however, that Kiev would be unlikely to offer open support for executive power in Russia because "this would amount to intervention in the internal affairs of a neighboring state." He did say, however, that "Leonid Kravchuk had made his position on this issue more or less clear in previous speeches" and that "Yeltsin's policies remained fully acceptable to Kiev."

Talks on Russian Fuel Prices End in Stalemate

OW1503215193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The last round of the Russian-Ukrainian talks on the prices of fuels has ended in a stalemate, the first Deputy Ukrainian Prime Minister Igor Yukhnovskiy told a news conference in Kiev on Monday [15 March]. He said that Kiev offered to pay 15 thousand rubles for one thousand cubic meters of Russian gas, whereas Moscow says it wants to have 24 thousand rubles.

Yukhnovskiy in turn described as unrealistic the prices Russia offered to pay for the transit of its fuels to Western countries across Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Vice-Premier has also said that according to his sources, Russia, in defiance of the February agreement of CIS heads of government in Surgut, is going to demand that Ukraine should pay for Russian oil at world prices.

Memorandum Signed With Iran on Diplomatic Travel

LD1503202293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya
Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Mahmud Va'ezzi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran for European and American Affairs, today met Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. They signed a memorandum on mutual understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ukraine Government on issues of visa-free travel by citizens with diplomatic and official passports. Mr. Behzad Mazaheri, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Iran to Ukraine, took part in the discussion of issues on diplomatic relations between our countries.

Joint Commission To Coordinate Trade With Iran

AU1503142693 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in
Ukrainian 10 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Fact"]

[Text] A joint Ukrainian-Iranian commission has been created to coordinate the movement of energy sources to our state from Iran and of agricultural products from Ukraine. In return Iran also promises to give Ukraine assistance in exploring its own deposits of energy sources. The commission will start its work in April.

President Kravchuk Receives French Ambassador

LD1503173093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in
Ukrainian 1600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk received Michel Peissik, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of France, today. In the course of frank discussions, a range of issues concerning the development of Ukrainian-French relations and also a number of international problems were discussed.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Discusses Economic Situation

OW1603002593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Part two of "exclusive" interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by Boris Grishchenko, editor of "Presidential Bulletin"; place and date not given; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Q: The need to have a common market of CIS member nations is a theme which is recurring with increasing frequency. Do you, Leonid Markovich, back this idea?

A: When we made a decision on setting up the CIS in Belovezhskaya Pushcha in December 1991, this subject

was broached, too. Immediately we started discussing the economic accents of the Commonwealth, a coordinated policy in this sphere.

I asked, I literally begged Yeltsin, do not decontrol the prices. Do not make this ill-conceived step, for if you do, everything will go to hell. For if Russia unfreezes prices, Ukraine will have to follow in Russia's footsteps. At that time everything was jointly owned, including the ruble. Therefore the same disaster awaited all of us.

Yeltsin replied, "Can't do, I promised the Congress that we would set the prices free and the Congress supported that idea..." From that time, I think, the use of world prices in settlements between CIS member nations became inevitable. This was as illogical as setting prices free was. When I think of it now, I want to say again that we must help one another, not play tricks on one another.

Ukraine cannot afford buying many things at world prices. Still, a CIS market is a reality now as is a market of the former socialist community which includes, for instance, Poland and Hungary. They are not strong competitors in the western markets, either. Therefore we must make full use of the potential of trading among ourselves and only later improve the quality and reduce prices to make certain kinds of goods competitive. I do not think this can be done in any different way, for the world market has been divided and is not easy to penetrate.

Recall Europe's troubles with quotas on metal sales. Ukraine with its powerful metallurgy knows about this first-hand. For this reason I think that large-scale economic decisions cannot be taken on the spur of the moment, for acting such is likely to bring dire consequences to millions of people.

The distorted understanding of the concept of economic freedom in young CIS member states brought about much damage. I think. Before all, demands were heard "Freedom to factories!", "Do not tie the directors' hands!" Pray, what kind of specific freedom does the director need who manages state-owned property? He was hired by the state to manage a factory or a construction project, hired, no more than that.

Equally unreasonable are, in my view, the recent appeals to let "the prices control the setting up of a market." What kind of control are they? If you are a private company and try to sell your product, the choice is unambiguous, you either gain or are ruined.

But equally unambiguously, the director of a state-owned business insisted, "I will do whatever I want and I wish nobody to hinder me." A theory, if you can call this rubbish that, which was also in vogue: "In the economic sea the ship will reach the port and whoever drowns let him go down." And where did it lead us? I talked to Gaydar twice, cited specific examples. One of them was like this. Ukrainian factories sold their produce worth 650 Bn [billion] rubles to Russia but were not

paid for it. Gaydar asks me, "They should not have sold." Excuse me, I say to him, had the suppliers not sold their produce to Russia, Russian factories would have stopped. What the Ukrainian suppliers wanted to do was to trade in a normal way.

I cited a more specific example. A Ukrainian diesel locomotive works supplied its products to the whole of the former Union. Billions of rubles are owed to the works now but nobody is bothering to pay. But the works is not a private enterprise. Neither is the Russian Ministry of Transportation to which the locomotives were shipped. But the story has been dragging on for six months. I am under the impression that there are forces that purposefully make things worse, in this case in the economy.

Q: What are these forces, who are those people, where do they hide?

A: I will recall an illustrative story which will provide a better explanation than general descriptions can. A large foreign firm proposed reconstruction of a Ukrainian oil refinery such that 80 to 82 rather than 50 percent, as before, of oil is turned into useful chemicals. Wasn't it attractive? The company was prepared to finance the reconstruction which was to run into about half a billion dollars on the condition that the added output was to be the property of that company for three years. Ukraine would be able to buy the additional products from the company.

In my view, this was mutually beneficial. Both sides seem to be satisfied. I give a buzz to one of those responsible for the materialization of the project in Ukraine and ask him what about filling out the documents. And what does he tell me? "I forgot." This is the way numerous state structures operate. People do nothing at all. Some are playing the waiting game and some are under political pressure. Most of them, however, are simply incapable of doing anything and unwilling to admit it. For this reason they say that no changes are needed in the economy. Most of them are nice people but they are in the wrong seats. Serious work is not their strong point.

Q: Speaking of competence, what is your opinion of the Leonid Kuchma government? It is described as a professional anti-crisis team which, unless I am wrong, has extraordinary powers.

A: This may be true. As for the outlook for the government, whose extraordinary powers come to an end on May 16, I believe that if it scores even small successes, then it will stay despite the differences of opinion in the Supreme Soviet. This will be a decisive factor which will determine whether the extraordinary powers will be extended.

Q: What steps undertaken by the government seem most radical to you?

A: I admire its pricing and privatization policy, especially as far as land is concerned. I am aware of the difficulties with which this course is implemented. In particular, as soon as the small lots near the peasant houses were to become privately owned, such noise was raised. The noise was made not by those who want to be land owner but by those who think that they alone can run the country and determine its future.

To be continued in the next issue.

First Vice Premier Says Cabinet Pushing Economic Reform

OW1503203893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1928 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's First Vice-Premier Igor Yukhnovskiy believes the first months of 1993 are evidence that the Leonid Kuchma cabinet is "sincere in its intention to lead Ukraine out of the deep economic crisis to the straight road of market-economy reforms".

Speaking at a news conference in Kiev on Monday [15 March] he dismissed as "groundless speculations" by a number of Ukrainian politicians to the effect that measures proposed by the Kuchma team were tantamount to a state of emergency in the economy.

Yukhnovskiy said that the government's financial stabilization program was aimed at "curbing inflation". For that the exchange rate of the dollar must be pushed down as the first order of business. The Ukrainian government believes that 400 karbovantsi for one dollar would be a realistic rate to aim for.

Vice-Premier Yukhnovskiy said Ukraine would place greater emphasis on domestic energy resources (coal and uranium) and reduce oil and gas imports. Besides, there are plans for raising transit transport tariffs.

To stabilize trade the Cabinet of Ministers plans to enforce the full collection of retail trade revenue by the banks and to set up a para-military tax inspectorate.

The Ukrainian Vice-Premier said his country had evaluated land in the wrong way and taxes on the users of land were inadequate. Yukhnovskiy said that the government planned to charge the land tax in kind. The rates will depend on the fertility of soil.

Planned Budget Deficit Totals 1 Trillion Karbovantsi

AU1603122993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Mar 93 p 1

[Leonid Brovchenko report: "You Must Spoil Before You Spin"]

[Text] An expanded meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers has been held. It discussed draft Indicative Plans (predictions) for Ukraine's economic and social development and Ukraine's state budget for 1993.

Summarizing the results of the Cabinet of Ministers meeting, which lasted more than three hours, Ukraine's president asked himself and the audience five questions. How will the budget and the Indicative Plan contribute to reforms? How will these two documents conform to strategic plans? In which way will a minimal subsistence level be ensured for the people? When will inflation stop? When will the decline in production stop and will we manage to stop it at all?

Unfortunately, the drafts elaborated by the Ministry of the Economy and by the Ministry of Finance do not give answers to these questions. Therefore, at the president's proposal, these documents were sent for amendments. It is not worthwhile to submit them to the Supreme Council for discussion. The deputies will, all the same, subject them to ruthless criticism. They are too flawed. It may be added for the lovers of statistics that the planned deficit of the state budget amounts to more than 1 trillion karbovantsi. However, today, it probably no longer even reflects the actual deficit. In the course of time, the situation will deteriorate even more....

Parliament Resumes Sessions in Kiev 16 Mar

OW1603125893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's Parliament resumed its session in Kiev on Tuesday [16 March].

It plans to discuss this week action on its decision of January 27 "on the social and economic situation in Ukraine and measures to stabilize it" and debate bills "on the system of scientific and technical information", "on refugees", "on state bodies of civilian acts registration".

On Monday, the Parliament approved a declaration on the formation of a Parliamentary assembly of the Black Sea states for economic cooperation. The Parliament's chief Ivan Plyushch initialed the document in Istanbul on February 26.

Nuclear Plant Operator Foresees 'Catastrophe'

AU1503123293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Mar 93 p 6

[Undated letter from Oleksandr K., operator at the South Ukrainian Atomic Electric Power Plant in Nikolayev Oblast, under the rubric "Response": "We Are Living on a Powder Keg"]

[Text] The article by O. Breus entitled "Megawatts or Security" (HOLOS UKRAYINY of 8 December 1992) discusses only one-hundredth of, to put it mildly, the shortcomings in the operation of the South Ukrainian Atomic Electric Power Plant. We operators are well aware of what is actually going on at the atomic electric power plant. Everything is leading to a catastrophe. The situation demands that all violations be investigated, because there are crimes behind them.

Who, however, will do it? Who is able to defeat the "atomic mafia"? If everything can be sold, who cares about simple mortals? The leadership of the plant does not deprive itself of anything and pays the operators such salaries that every one of them prefers to keep silent. Otherwise, tomorrow they might be kicked out. Meanwhile, the information department of the South Ukrainian Atomic Electric Power Plant is issuing incomplete information on incidents at the plant, concealing the most terrible thing—that we are living on a powder keg....

Association Seeks Referendum on Constitution

LD1503140093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Second Congress of the New Ukraine [Nova Ukrayina] Association considers it necessary to initiate a campaign of collecting signatures under the demand to hold a referendum regarding a preterm suspension of the authority of the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Such clauses are included in the political resolution of the congress. This document points out that the implementation of the action mentioned depends on the specific political situation in the state. It also states the necessity of convening a constitutional assembly in order to adopt a new constitution of Ukraine.

It is stressed in the document of the congress that the attitude of Nova Ukrayina to the parliament is determined, in particular, by the fact that the conservative majority has become more active in the Supreme Council and this legislative body is turning into a stronghold of anti-reformist forces.

Belarus

Economic Official on Prices, Trade

*WS1603105093 Minsk Belaruskaje Television Network
in Belarusian 1815 GMT 11 Mar 93*

[Text] When may our life become stable? We asked Anatol Andreevich Dremav, chief of the Economic Department at the Belarusian Council of Ministers.

[Begin recording] [Dremav] You are right. The current situation in Belarus is truly difficult; to some extent, it is out of control. It is difficult because the outside world has changed too quickly, because the cost of energy resources has shot up. This causes us to make impromptu economic decisions. In my opinion, the economic situation is out of control because such decisions have been previously adopted. Moreover, the process of decisionmaking has changed. We have started to make decisions on the so-called macro level. This is a specific feature of economic management. Vyacheslav Kebich has already addressed this issue. All important economic decisions were previously made in Moscow. All economic programs were handed down to us by Moscow. We should change this routine and begin to think for ourselves. In my opinion, macroeconomics includes the clearing of accounts, control of credits, and the introduction of free prices. What does this mean for the ordinary person? It goes without saying that it will not increase one's budget. Moreover, life will become more difficult. We should support those sections of the population who suffer the most, who are unable to work. We should also encourage those people who can and want to work. However, regulation of the economy on the microeconomic level should also be taken into account. Our approach to this issue has also changed. We used to speak about maintaining our economic potential with an eye toward all the profitable and unprofitable enterprises. We are currently asking ourselves: Why should we keep all the enterprises? What about weeding out inefficient enterprises by using pricing and competition? [passage indistinct] The state can support unprofitable enterprises only in the event, that their working collectives want to survive. If someone thinks, however, that the state guarantees his welfare, he is mistaken. A state can guarantee the welfare of only those who cannot work.

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Dremav] [passage indistinct] We are currently encouraging the increase of the working capital of enterprises. This is our economic policy on the micro level. We have adopted a number of foreign investment programs and particularly in the sphere of construction. Our next concern is the stabilization of enterprises, especially keeping the wage increases under control. We have already adopted a decree on wage controls. Our opponents call this decree an anti-market decree. However, in my opinion, it has a market character. The increase in wages increase should be proportionate to the increase in the level of production.

[Correspondent] What are the weak points of our economy? What is the government doing to remedy the Belarusian economy?

[Dremav] I would like to speak about the three weak points of our economy. Firstly, the relationship between the consumer market and the purchasing power of the population. Secondly, the cost of energy resources. Thirdly, the issue of nonpayments to our enterprises, including the problem of clearing accounts. To start with, our economic policy in the consumer market is changing. We have previously tried to control wages and price by the means of state subsidies to the producers. We can now see the negative results of such activities. Our republic is empty in the full sense of the word. Everything is being legally and illegally exported. We may close the border but smugglers will continue to take out everything that is cheaper than in the neighboring countries.

[Correspondent] As far as I know, food stuffs are also being illegally exported, including sacks full of bread.

[Dremav] Not only the food. Everything that is cheaper in Belarus will be illegally exported. We are living under conditions when the market situation is ruling our lives.

[Correspondent] How should we protect the Belarusian domestic market?

[Dremav] This is the reason for the general revision of our old approach to the development of our economy. Maybe, the prices should be the same as the prices in the other former USSR republics. So, we should introduce free prices; subsidies should be offered to the consumer and not the producer. In connection with this, we have drafted several decrees to support the unprotected groups of population. Indeed, free prices have been given full play, except for the price of bread and milk. You cannot find milk in our shops because it is processed into cheese. Currently, we are introducing free prices on meat. This is why we must pay attention to how the socially unprotected groups of population make their living, and to encourage the working people so that their wages correspond with their work.

[Correspondent] What is our policy in setting prices on oil and other energy resources?

[Dremav] It is difficult for us to set the price of oil. The oil issue brings about the need for structural changes. If we admit that petroleum products will be going up, we must make some structural changes. The defense industry is the most competitive production in this respect. Its material costs do not exceed the costs for the machine building production. So, we will introduce some structural changes. Then, we have already adopted some decrees on protection of our scientific and technical potential. This is our reserve which will help us to survive.

[Correspondent] What do you think of clearing accounts, or the third weak point of our economy?

[Dremav] It is not always the issue of clearing accounts. It is the issue of payments. Nonpayments appear as the

result of the negative trade balance. This means that we are importing more than we are exporting. We must buy in order to be able to export. To be able to buy we must sell something. If we do not sell, we introduce the so-called credit emission which is not recognized by another country. We can mention the Russian nonpayments. If we import goods from Russia for the sum of 2 billion rubles [R], and export to Russia goods for the sum of R1 billion, we do not have the cash and have to print it. However, Russia does not recognize our currency and the nonpayment issue arises. The other thing is that the speed of money transfer is too slow. It takes three months for a payment from Russia to clear. This is, of course, not our problem. It is up to Russia to speed up the payments. The issue of accelerating payments should be solved on the intergovernmental level.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion on the prime minister's statement concerning the decree about rate of Belarusian ruble in relation to the Russian ruble?

[Dremav] I believe that this is the most revolutionary decree of the past several years. Until now, the process of regulating the money emission in Belarus was conducted by the government. For example, to utilize these monies we used to introduce a 50 percent tax on the Russian noncash rubles. [passage indistinct] Now we decided to determine the true value of a Belarusian ruble in relation to a Russian ruble. [words indistinct] The chairman of the Belarusian National Bank proposed to assess the value of the Belarusian ruble in relation to the Russian ruble at the Belarusian stock exchange. The exchange rate depends on the state of trade between Belarus and Russia.

[Correspondent] By the way, what will be the impact of this exchange rate on exports and imports?

[Dremav] The enterprises exporting their production to Russia, will have the advantage because they will get 1.3 Belarusian rubles for every Russian ruble. For example, Minsk television factory "Gorizont" will prefer to export to Russia rather than to Ukraine, because the factory will get 1.32 Belarusian ruble for each Russian and only 0.5 Belarusian ruble for each Ukrainian ruble. We are trying to improve our trade balance by using this exchange rate. This means that we are encouraging the export of Belarusian goods to those countries with which we have the established a high rate of exchange.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Anatol Andreevich, this is a vital decree which protects our national interests. Thank you for the interview. [end recording]

Large Consignment of Weapons Seized at Border

PM1503143593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12
Mar 93 First Edition p 8

[Mikhail Shimanskiy report: "380,000 Gas Weapons Seized Near Brest"]

[Text] An enormous consignment of gas weapons has been seized on the border near Brest. Some MAZ and

Mercedes trucks brought in 19,200 gas pistols and ammunition and 360,000 gas cylinders from Germany. The recipients of this very special freight are the "Gamma" Production Association in Pavlodar (Kazakhstan) and the "Transfer" (Perm) Russian Joint-Stock Company.

The weapons were imported into Belarus quite legally. In the opinion of the owners of the freight, they have all the necessary documents. They also have the license for purchase and transshipment. This convoy had a six-man armed escort.

Everything would seem to be in order, so why was the cargo detained?

Yes, the border guards transferred the gas weapons from the trucks to their own depot, Valeriy Manyutin, chief of the Belarus Main Border Guard Directorate Press Center, told us. All the conditions exist there for observing the necessary safety measures in this situation. The fact is that the transport workers failed to meet a number of conditions.

First, you have to get permission in advance from the Belarus state authorities to transport such a consignment of chemical weapons across its territory. Second, you have to conclude a contract with the Foreign Ministry to ensure safe transportation. Three, you need official advice from the EC environmental protection agency on the transport of especially hazardous loads. They did not have this. Vehicles carrying chemical weapons bear special markings. But neither the MAZ nor the Mercedes trucks had such markings. The drivers and the escort are supposed to be equipped with gas masks. And there must be breathing apparatus [sredstva dlya gazatsii] available in the event of an accident—the trucks use very busy highways after all.... But none of these demands was met, Manyutin stressed.

Now the situation with the detained weapons has become so complicated that it can only be resolved at state level. Someone is trying to blame the border troops and customs officials, saying that they have exceeded their official powers on this occasion. But here is what Major General Yevgeniy Bocharov, commander of the Belarus border troops, says:

"To import such a quantity of chemical weapons into Belarus territory without coordination with its government or observance of the mandatory requirements is a clear disregard of our sovereignty and our laws. That is not how it is done in civilized countries. Furthermore, the arguments used by the owners of the weapons that their goods are destined for law-enforcement agencies in Kazakhstan and Russia are unconvincing. If the purchase and shipment of weapons to Perm and Pavlodar have been authorized by the state organs of power in those countries, why have they kept silent so far? After all, it is already two weeks since the freight was seized and placed in storage."

Many people in the republic believe that possibly this freight was intended for the black market, where a gas pistol fetches around \$100. At black market prices 380 gas weapons are worth over 1 billion rubles or more than \$1 million [as published].

The border guards do not rule out the possibility that this was an attempt to ship chemical weapons across the border legally to test people's vigilance. Possibly someone wanted to check the situation on the border near Brest and find out how we deal with "weapons" transport.

Russian-Belarusian Industrialists' Meeting Postponed

OW1503153093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting of Russian and Belarusian industrialists in Minsk with the prime ministers of the two countries to attend has been postponed indefinitely. Although the Prime Minister of Belarus, Vyacheslav Kebich, proposed such a gathering on Christmas Eve, it has been repeatedly postponed for various reasons.

INTERFAX learned from Belarusian Government sources that on Monday Mr. Kebich received a cable from Moscow, which, our sources claim, "notes that such a meeting would be impossible in the near future because of the political situation in Russia." At the same time, it underlines the necessity of a meeting and expresses the prime minister's readiness to arrive in Minsk "at a later date."

Communists Form Committee To Prepare for April Congress

WS1603110193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The recent plenary session of the Communist Party of Belarus [KPB] has decided to convene the 32d Emergency Congress of the party in April. A body composed of central and oblast committee secretaries, cochairmen of the Political Executive Committee of the Party of Belarusian Communists [PKB], and some representatives of the rank and file, has been created to prepare for the congress, including KPB Central Committee Secretaries Malofeyev, Kamay, and (Tekinia); KPB Political Executive Committee Cochairmen Chikin, Semenov, and Rushkevich; former KPB Central Committee Secretary (Techelnikov), and others. Delegates will be elected by rayon organizations. Currently the registration of KPB members is under way.

Kravchanka Meets German Envoy on Bilateral Cooperation

WS1603110093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Petr Kravchanka discussed further development of Belarusian-German bilateral cooperation with German Ambassador Gottfried Albrecht, during a conversation held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main issues considered by the parties were the signing of a joint declaration on the principles of relations between the Republic of Belarus and the FRG, a treaty on cooperation in culture, science, and technology, and a memorandum on German assistance in the liquidation of the aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Moldova

Romanian Source Confirms Fears of Possible Coup

AU1503142293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 10 Mar 93 p 10

[Svitlana Chala report from Chisinau: "Yet Another Warning?"]

[Text] After the newspaper KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI reprinted the article "Against What Are the Tentacles of Terror Directed?" published on 23 February by the Ukrainian newspaper BUKOVYNA, there was a lot of commotion in Moldova. The article deals with no more and no less than a coup d'etat that is being prepared in Moldova. If we recall the recent statement on the same subject by President M. Snegur, the BUKOVYNA publication merits genuine interest.

A Romanian citizen who did not wish to disclose his identity reports in the publication about the training in his fatherland of "special groups for carrying out terrorist acts in Bessarabia, Bukovyna, and Odessa Oblast." These groups are to become the main striking force of the opposition structures for overthrowing the undesirable president, prime minister, and other leaders of the republic, seizing power, and thus resolving problems of uniting Romania and Moldova.

The measures mentioned in the article will also be taken against those deputies of the Moldovan parliament who do not support the idea of union, and against leaders of the Dniester Region, diplomatic representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the United States, and Turkey for "the purpose of provoking an armed conflict."

Against the background of recent speeches in Romania by M. Druc, leader of the Moldovan People's Front, in which he confirms his organization's intention to take revenge in the near future, by activating over 100 movement centers in the republic, and also considering information that has found its way into the press on the participation of Romanian special services in the process

of a possible union, the publication in the Ukrainian newspaper sounds quite plausible.

What is this—a warning or a provocation?

As stated by Moldova's Security Service, its special group and the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs are investigating.

Dniester-Gagauzia Declaration Termed 'Political Games'

OW1503235393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Report on "exclusive" interview with presidential state counsellor Nicolae Kirotoake prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; place and date not given; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The political leaders in Dniester and Gagauzia are not concerned with upholding the interests of their people, seeking to legalize their separatist structures at any cost," Moldovan President's state counsellor Nicolae Kirotoake said, commenting on the recent joint statement by the presidium of the Supreme Soviets of the self-proclaimed republics of Dniester and Gagauzia in regards to organizing Moldova on a federative basis.

In an exclusive interview for Interfax, Nicolae Kirotoake emphasized that "their statement runs counter to the peace initiatives the republic's government has undertaken recently in order to settle the conflict in Dniester and normalize the situation there." Our conceptual approach, the state counsellor went on, lies in according a special status to Moldova's eastern regions with the consideration for their historical, cultural and socioeconomic peculiarities.

"One needn't be too insightful to realize that the closer we get to adopting mutually acceptable variants, the more aggressive become the circles which oppose normalization, insisting unequivocally on the "de facto" and "de jure" status of the Dniester Republic," Nicolae Kirotoake observed.

In his words, the joint statement by the parliaments of Dniester and Gagauzia stands out as just another attempt to orchestrate "certain forces" in Moldova for upsetting the peace process which, in the opinion of the republic's government, is based on optimally loyal, unbiased and pragmatic approaches and assessments of the situation which has taken shape in Moldova.

The state counsellor pointed to frequent visits to Gagauzia and Dniester by deputies of Russia's Supreme Soviet representing various conservative and national-chauvinistic organizations, such as "Otchizna" (Fatherland) and the National Salvation Front.

It seems they are interested in using Dniester and Gagauzia in their wide-scale political games, he claimed. "Seeking to attain their goals they are trying to project the image of unity between the people who live in these regions," he said.

"Deplorably, these political leaders cannot understand how bizarre their approaches are when they apply them to such entities as 'ethnic groups', 'the people', etc. It seems to be their objective to preclude complete normalization of the situation there," he said.

They would only concede to settling the conflict on condition that the existing structures in Dniester and Gagauz republics be preserved so as to rely on them in their future political games." [no opening quotation marks as received] Mr Kirotoake concluded.

National Bank Circulates New 1,000-Ruble Notes

LD1603105493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRES for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau March 16—New banknotes with the face value of 1,000 roubles issued by the Moldovan National Bank were put in circulation in Moldova today.

The new notes were introduced to help the state liquidate its debt to the population in wage payments and issue easy credits to agrarians, according to the bank Vice President Dumitru Ursu. The move was another phase in the process of strengthening the circulation of money in the republic.

World Bank Loans \$26 Million To Counter Drought Damage

LD1603102893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington March 16 TASS—The World Bank extended an emergency loan of 26 million U.S. dollars to Moldova to overcome consequences of an unheard-of drought which afflicted the former Soviet republic over the past two years.

Along with other financial aid, Moldova will receive 31.2 million dollars to realise a programme to combat the drought which caused a food shortage. Out of the total, 5.2 million dollars will be directly given to the Moldovan Government.

The loan is to be repaid over 17 years. The first five years will be a grace period. The loan is granted at 7.43 per cent per annum.

A World Bank press release says that the loan will be used to stimulate agriculture, including the purchase of fertiliser, fodder, seeds and equipment, spares for agricultural machinery and technical aid to boost Moldova's agricultural sector.

Kazakhstan

NATO, Russian Experts Visit Kazakhstan

PM1503144793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Kazakhstan Intends Firmly To Fulfill Treaty's Terms"]

[Text] The delegation of experts from NATO and the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry center for political and international studies which is in Alma-Ata was received 12 March by Kazakhstan Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Aytkali Isengulov. The NATO guests focused their attention on questions relating to the present of strategic nuclear weapons on Kazakhstan's territory and the deadline for their destruction.

Aytkali Isengulov said that the republic's leadership states firmly and unambiguously that all deadlines mentioned in the START I Treaty, which Kazakhstan has ratified, will be fulfilled precisely. If it is a case of accelerating the process of the dismantling of nuclear missiles, then evidently, he stressed, we must also speak of increasing the size of aid to the republic to carry out the entire package of work connected with eliminating nuclear weapons on Kazakhstan's territory.

The Defense Ministry spokesman stressed that the size of aid cannot be determined merely by expenditure on the dismantling of the missiles: The ecological consequences of the presence of strategic missiles on the republic's territory and of operations to destroy them are grave. Especially as the republic has no means to accelerate the process of the elimination of nuclear weapons on its territory. It is essential primarily to help city dwellers who have suffered as a result of nuclear tests. Therefore Kazakhstan cannot spend the funds earmarked for these purposes on the disarmament race.

Participate in Roundtable Meeting

LD1503221293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2145 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata March 16 TASS—A group of NATO experts headed by Christine Shelley, deputy director of the Secretariat of the NATO Secretary-General, and representatives of a number of foreign research centers, who stayed for a few days in the capital of Kazakhstan, had meetings in the president's apparatus, the parliamentary Committee for National Security and Defense, the Ministry of Defense and the Foreign Ministry. Members [of] the group were also received by Kairbek Suleymenov, state adviser to the Cabinet of Ministers, and visited one of the military units near Alma-Ata.

The NATO experts, as well as scientists from Russia, took part in the "round table" organized by the Center for Strategic Researches of the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Forecast, and the Center

for Political and International Research attached to the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation. The round table participants considered problems of ensuring Eurasian security in the light of initiatives of the President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan on holding a meeting on confidence-building measures and interaction in Asia.

Ties between Kazakhstan and NATO are becoming ever closer. Incidentally, it does not imply that the republic is going to join this organization, but they are actively establishing many-sided cooperation.

New Independent TV Station 'Spektr' Inaugurated

LD1503200493 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Petropavlovsk, 15 Mar—"Spektr," another commercial independent television channel, has started broadcasting in northern Kazakhstan. Its founder is the firm "Kazrossinvest-Rossinvest," which has acquired Japanese equipment for the television journalists.

The new entertainment channel will be run by experienced skilled staff and creative young people and it promises great success. Its first appearance on the air gives grounds to expect a serious competitor, not just for local programs but also for programs from Alma-Ata.

Tajikistan

Karategin Valley Reportedly Returning to Normal

LD1503204993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Telephoned dispatch from Tajikistan by correspondent Alisher Khodzhaev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in the Karategin valley, recently an area of combat action, is gradually getting back to normal. The local residents who have been menaced by the fear of war and the threat of hunger for many months are receiving the government troops as their liberators. Individual isolated groups of oppositionists, still armed, have retreated to the snow-covered areas. They have only one option, to surrender voluntarily, there is no alternative.

In the meantime, aid is being sent on an emergency basis to Garm, Tavildara, and Tajikabad. A convoy of 70 trucks loaded with foodstuffs, medicines, and clothes has already left Dushanbe for this mountain area. The convoy is being guarded by soldiers of the Popular Front. The government is doing everything it can to resolve the existing disagreements in a peaceful fashion.

An understanding with commanders of armed groups has been reached on the Pamir. As proof of reconciliation, field commander (Rakhmi Khudorov Matuloyev)

has handed over 100 firearms to the militia. The situation in Gorno-Badakhshan is under the control of internal troops subunits and units of the Committee for State Security.

Popular Front Leader Opposes Disbanding People's Army

OW1403170593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of Tajikistan's Popular Front, Sangak Safarov, has said that even though the situation in his republic somewhat stabilized, it's premature to call for disbanding "the People's Army" (that is, the Front's armed units: IF [INTERFAX]) "This will not happen before the civil war ends in Tajikistan," he told IF's correspondent in Dushanbe on Sunday [14 March].

According to Safarov, forces provoking civil confrontation are still active within Tajikistan. Some refugees who returned home have disappeared, he said. In this connection the Popular Front intends to shoulder responsibility for the return of refugees and for their safety.

A document giving the right to carry arms will be introduced throughout Tajikistan shortly, the leader of the Front said. It will be signed by 4 officials: by the Popular Front chairman, by the leader of the National Security Committee, by the interior minister and by the defence minister. Safarov also said that "in civil war conditions, only one form of punishment should be used for those who engage in plunder, marauding and rape—death by a firing squad."

National Front Leader Urges Groups To Surrender Arms

LD1503110093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0440 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By KHOVAR-TIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 15 Mar—A motor convoy carrying foodstuffs has arrived in Tajikistan's Tavildarinskiy Rayon, which was recently liberated from armed anti-government groupings. Three hundred and twenty tonnes of foodstuffs and medicines have been delivered from Dushanbe to Tavildarinskiy Rayon and the Garm group of rayons.

In this connection, Sangak Safarov, chairman of the National Front of Tajikistan, has once again made an urgent call to groups of armed bandits active in the Karategin and Pamir Mountains to hand in their arms voluntarily. If they do not, "no mercy will be shown" towards them, he emphasized.

We are doing all we can so that our compatriots can feel at their ease and get on with creative work, he stated. Safarov noted that he has great respect for the workers of the lofty Pamirs, where the handing in of weapons is

currently under way. Those individuals who are hatching plans for revenge will inevitably suffer defeat, for the overwhelming majority of the country's population support the constitutional government and its effective steps to normalize the situation in the whole region, the leader of the National Front of Tajikistan concluded.

'Authorities' Accuse Dushanbe of Breaching Accord

LD1403145293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 14 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe March 14 TASS—The authorities of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan have accused Dushanbe of violating a bilateral agreement on principles for the disarmament of unlawful armed groups in the Pamirs.

A message, addressed to Republican Parliament Chief Imamali Rakhmanov, emphasises that there were instances of infringement upon the agreements reached during days-long talks between the parliamentary commission visiting the Pamirs, the local authorities and the leaders of armed groups.

As the authors of the message maintain, the disarmament process in the Pamirs has practically begun but the authorities of the Gorno-Badakhshan region have learned that unidentified armed units and armoured vehicles have appeared on the territory of the region and moved 40 kilometres deep into it.

The executive committee of the regional council has expressed serious concern over this circumstance and insists that the Armed Forces be immediately withdrawn to beyond the boundaries of the autonomous region that persons who violated the bilateral agreement be called to account. Otherwise, political consequences of the action may be unpredictable, the message said.

'Powerful Defense Line' Built on Afghanistan Border

LD1503173593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Mar 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Tajikistani authorities stated today that a powerful defense line is being built at the border with Afghanistan. They said that Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan are rendering active assistance.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov on Islamic Fundamentalism, Democracy

OW1503223593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757
GMT 15 Mar 93

[“Exclusive interview” with President Saparmurad Niyazov by unidentified INTERFAX special correspondent in Ashgabat; date not given; from the “Presidential Bulletin” feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX: In light of the crises in many former Soviet republics, how does Turkmenistan manage to keep economic and political stability, improve the standard of living, and maintain peace in society? Do you think it's fair to link the current and future prosperity of your country only to its energy and natural wealth?

Niyazov: Obviously, we link our stability and future prosperity to our natural resources, but only to certain limits. However, our chief treasure, our main trump card is our people, our history, culture, the concrete people who have trusted and supported the course toward building an independent prosperous state. Quite often in the history of humanity, wealth has caused calamities and misfortunes. For this reason, it would be wrong to think that all our plans rest exclusively on oil and gas.

To my mind, there is a unique situation in Turkmenistan. One of the most backward former Soviet republics, it used to be mentioned only as an example of the beneficial effect of Marxism-Leninism on the destinies of the formerly oppressed nations, Turkmenistan has suddenly experienced universal prominence. I do not think that there is a special secret to our stability. What there is, is reliance on common sense, inherent in my people, and their prudence. As for natural wealth, it's only an ingredient of success.

Q: Recognizing Turkmenistan's social and economic achievements, some Western and other media criticize its leadership for having little desire to stick to traditional values of democracy in Europe. Do you think the mechanical transition of Western experience to Turkmenistan is justified?

A: I believe the European variant should be used in Europe and I see no reason to regard it as universal. Accepting pluralism within a certain democratic society. Western politicians often reject any other interpretation of democracy. The Western press constantly writes about fundamentalism and the growth of extremism in the Muslim countries. However, it should be admitted that the escalation of fundamentalism in a number of states is a natural reaction to the mechanical application of European democratic experience to oriental countries. When Western politicians insist on the universality of European principles, they somehow provoke anti-Western sentiments in a number of Muslim countries.

We in Turkmenistan shall have our variation of democracy least of all out of the desire to gain prominence or look fancy, but for further calm and stability. Our democracy will take into account both the world experience of democratic construction and the national traditions and peculiarities of the Turkmen people. There is no other way.

Q: Has the last CIS summit in Minsk changed the republic's position toward the Commonwealth's present and future? Do you think it's reasonable to search for regional integration options within the CIS (Central Asian integration, for one)?

A: Our position toward the CIS has basically remained unchanged. We are for the Commonwealth as usual, but without rigid coordinating structures. Joint CIS bodies should be exclusively consultative, and their decisions should be only recommendations. Economic and trade links between Commonwealth states should be equal and mutually advantageous. Any references to history or current difficulties make no sense because all of us today face problems; all of us are in trouble. Of course, we are aware of the situation and are ready for compromises, but within reasonable limits, and, obviously, we cannot allow our people's interests to be infringed upon.

As for regional integration, we regard it as acceptable in principle. Such integration has some beginnings in Central Asia, however to say anything definite on it is too early yet.

Presidential Bulletin will complete the publication of the interview in the next edition.

Niyazov's Moves To Promote Enterprise Noted

PM1203150193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Mar 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: “Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan Receive Support From Head of State”]

[Text] Ashgabat—President S. Niyazov of Turkmenistan has signed a decree on state support for entrepreneurship which establishes basic guidelines for a purposeful policy to develop nonstate structures and revive the class of property owners.

A joint-stock bank for the development of entrepreneurship is also being established and will be granted a preferential credit of 5 billion rubles [R] to finance the investment projects of Turkmenia's businessmen.

For Turkmenistan 1993 marks the beginning of a sharp revival in business activeness, especially that of entrepreneurial structures. I would remind you that a law has been adopted on the introduction of private ownership of land, as a result of which every citizen has the right to own a plot of land of up to 50 hectares or to lease up to 500 hectares on a long-term basis. A decision has been adopted to create seven free enterprise economic zones on the territory of Turkmenistan, and this has attracted

the attention of entrepreneurs not just in local private business, but also among foreign business people. And now there is the decree of the president of Turkmenistan on support for entrepreneurship.

"We are building a new society. We must have our own traders, entrepreneurs, and businessmen," S. Niyazov stressed at a recent meeting with business people. "They will be granted freedom of action and state credits..."

This year alone the Agroindustrial Bank [Agroprombank] has been allocated a preferential credit totaling R1,150 million rubles to finance the development of new lands by "free" landowners and users of land. Entrepreneurs who process agricultural output are exempted from paying profits tax and from making payments for land for five years from the time they receive the land. The registration procedure will be simplified. And, in order to attract foreign investments and acquire technological equipment for the development of entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Agriculture has been instructed to provide for the allocation of targeted quotas for export deliveries of cotton fiber and other agricultural output produced over and above the state order.

Another equally important factor in the revival of entrepreneurship in the countryside has not been left out either—henceforth the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, the State Committee for the Supply of Petroleum Products, and the "Turkmenselkhozpromservis" corporation (the former "Selkhoztekhnika") will have to provide spare parts, fuel, and material and technical resources requested by entrepreneurs on the same terms on which they deal with state enterprises.

Apart from the machine and tractor stations which are now being set up in every oblast in Turkmenistan to serve rural entrepreneurs, the construction of elevators, mills, canneries, and sheepskin processing plants is envisaged.

Around 400 people have been sent for training to Turkey, Switzerland, and Near East countries. On their return, the Turkmenistan Cabinet of Ministers considers, these people will work with foreign companies and form industrial joint ventures and organizations. "In this way the state will stimulate entrepreneurship," S. Niyazov said. "We will not travel the path of mass uncontrolled privatization and of handing enterprises over to collectives, since private owners do not appear spontaneously, without preparation and without state support..."

As of 1 March rayon commissions had received around 5,000 applications for private ownership of land from future landowners. The free enterprise economic zones are starting to be opened up and developed. There are fewer and fewer people who doubt their success.

Turkish Army Chief Arrives on Visit

LD1503201893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 15 Mar 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 15 March—Army General Dogan Gures, chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, arrived in Turkmenistan today. The changes taking place in the republic give rise, according to the general, to a great deal of interest both in Turkey and in the whole world. The experience of setting up national armed forces is, from this point of view, not without interest, either. As for a defense alliance between Turkmenistan and Russia, the general emphasized that any alliance, including military alliances, is a sovereign right of the states that conclude it. Turkey, which is equally friendly both to Russia and to Turkmenistan, develops its relations with them within the framework of the treaties of friendship and cooperation and intends to deepen them exclusively upon this basis.

Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov received General Gures today. The program for the visit includes meetings in the republican Ministry of Defense.

Meets With Niyazov

TA1503163293 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, March 15 (AA)—Turkish Chief of Staff Gen. Dogan Gures, currently on an official visit to Ashgabat, on Monday met with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov to discuss development of bilateral military relations.

Gures is in Turkmenistan to discuss Turkish support for military training in Turkmenistan and the setting up of a Turkmen national guard force.

Accompanied by Niyazov, Gures also visited a number of military installations.

Joint Russian-Turkmen Naval Command Formed

LD1603031093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Turkmenistan is to have its own navy to defend the Republic's interests in the Caspian Sea region. An agreement to this effect was reached on 15 March in Ashgabat at a meeting between President Niyazov and a Russian military delegation led by Zhurbenko, deputy chief of the General Staff of Russia. The Turkmenistan national navy will initially be under a joint Russian-Turkmen command. The pertinent documents are to be signed at the end of the week. NEGA reports.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Austria

LD1303103793 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Diplomatic relations have been established between Turkmenistan and Austria. The ceremony of presentation of credentials was held yesterday. In accordance with the instructions of the president of Turkmenistan, Sahat Myradov, chairman of the Assembly, received the credentials of Friedrich Bauer, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Austria. [passage omitted]

On behalf of the Austrian leadership, his excellency the ambassador submitted an invitation to Turkmenistan President Saparmyrat Niyazov to pay an official visit to Austria.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Appeals for UN Assistance in Tajikistan

OW1503211293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov appealed to UN General Secretary Butrus Butrus-Ghali with a proposal to send UN representatives to Central Asia to study the situation in Tajikistan and collect information for a subsequent discussion at a Security Council session.

Karimov also proposed the immediate consideration of the issue of assistance from the world community in securing the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. "Our extreme concern on this issue stems from the fact that, due to historic developments in the former USSR, the foreign borders of Tajikistan also represent the outer border for all countries of this region," stresses the president's statement to the UN general secretary. Therefore, "the slightest violations of Tajikistan's borders may be perceived as direct attacks on the sovereignty of all the Central Asian states," warned Karimov.

The Uzbek leader stressed that in Afghanistan "with the direct participation and support of extremist centers located on the territory of neighboring countries, weapons depots are being more rapidly established, as are camps for organizing terrorist sabotage groups for conducting such operations on the territory of the region."

The rising tension surrounding Tajikistan could set off major political and social uprisings in the enormous region, whose nuclear and conventional weapons represent a tremendous destructive force, stressed Karimov.

Foreign Minister Hails Appeal

LD1503174993 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Sadyk Safayev has called President Islam Karimov's address to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali "a fresh step in strengthening peace and stability in the region."

At a briefing today the republic's foreign minister told representatives of the mass media about the text of the address.

"Appealing to your high authority in the world, Mr. Secretary General, and the United Nations' unique role in international life, I would ask your assistance on two issues which warrant immediate attention—that is, with the aid of the world community, ensuring the security and inviolability of the border between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan," the address emphasized.

"According to the information we have from reliable sources, stockpiles of weapons and also camps of saboteur and terrorist groups, which are being formed for the purpose of conducting subversive operations on the territory of our region, are being rapidly set up beyond the southern borders of Tajikistan on the Afghan side with the direct involvement and support of extremist centers located on the territory of neighboring countries."

The address also expressed concern at the fate of tens of thousands of innocent and deprived people—children, women and old men abducted from Tajikistan. In Afghanistan, they have found themselves in the most difficult situation and need resolute UN support to return without hindrance to their homes.

On the basis of the principles of humanitarianism, the Republic of Uzbekistan is ready to offer its assistance, including territory, in implementing special actions under UN auspices to return the forcefully abducted population to their homeland.

At the end of the briefing, the Uzbekistan foreign minister said that tomorrow the Republic of Uzbekistan's permanent envoy to the United Nations will hand the address from the leader of Uzbekistan to Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan in France; Agreements Detailed

NC1603080393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Report by Zaven Karapetyan on a news conference by Aram Abrahamyan, the president's press secretary, at the presidential residence on 15 March—recorded]

[Text] [Karapetyan] The president's press secretary provided details on the Armenian delegation's official visit to France. He specifically noted the important meetings and talks that President Levon Ter-Petrosyan held with French President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Beregovoy, and representatives of various political parties.

The basic themes of the talks were the development of bilateral relations and the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

On the bilateral Agreement on Solidarity, Friendship and Cooperation that was signed, Abrahamyan said:

[Abrahamyan] It must be said that this is the first agreement of its kind that Armenia has signed with a Western country. The first part of the agreement covers the general principles of cooperation, periodic bilateral consultations on various issues [words indistinct], and cooperation within the UN and CSCE. One clause in the agreement stipulates that the foreign ministers of the two countries should meet at least once a year.

France and Armenia will also develop and deepen their contacts in the military sphere whenever one side perceives that its security is endangered. In such a case, immediate consultations will be held on the problem in question and the sides will try to forge a common position in order to resolve the emerging situation.

A separate article is devoted to economic, industrial, scientific, and technological cooperation. Six areas have been specified in the economic sphere: the reconstruction and management of the economy, transportation and equipment, communications, energy, agriculture, and agrarian resources and their exploitation.

A number of articles are devoted to reciprocal visits and contacts among scientists, students, cultural workers, public organizations and political parties.

There is also an article which coordinates cooperation on legal affairs, especially civil rights and law enforcement agencies.

In our view this agreement is a very important document and must be put into effect.

[Karapetyan] The president's press secretary also said President Ter-Petrosyan met with the Armenian Ministry of Industry delegation that is visiting France. He also met representatives of the Armenian community in France. Charles Aznavour was present at this meeting where the

president ceremoniously issued a decree appointing him Armenia's ambassador on special missions.

Concluding his statement, Abrahamyan said that the signed document proves we are forging a higher quality foreign policy. He then replied to reporters' questions.

Negotiations With Iran on Gas Pipeline Under Way

OW1503172193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Iranian delegation is negotiating in Yerevan on the construction of a pipeline to provide Armenia with Iranian gas.

According to preliminary estimates, the construction work will cost \$70 Mn [million]. The total length of the pipeline will be 150 km (about 94 miles). The section running through Iranian territory will be 100 km (62.5 miles) long, the Armenian section being 50 km (about 31 miles) long.

Construction may start this year.

'Complications' in Armenian-Georgian Ties Examined

PM1603094993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Mar 93 First Edition p 7

[Karen Topchyan report: "Hard Times for Armenian-Georgian Relations"]

[Text] Yerevan—Recently noticeable complications have appeared in mutual relations between Armenia and Georgia which, in the opinion of many observers in Yerevan, could have a negative effect on the political situation throughout the Transcaucas region. This is connected mainly with the series of explosions on the gas pipeline supplying Armenia which runs across Georgian territory. However, there are other, no less serious reasons.

The two countries have found themselves in a diametrically opposed geopolitical situation. Georgia is trying to avoid disintegration. Its leaders, accusing Russia of all manner of heinous crimes, are clearly seeking rapprochement with the West, Turkey, and Iran. In Tbilisi people are insistently demanding the withdrawal of Russia's troops. Armenia, on the other hand, regards Russia as its natural ally. In the past few months Yerevan has more than once demonstrated a readiness to expand ties with Moscow in all spheres, including the military sphere.

Political observers in Yerevan tend to attribute the rumors of an unstable situation in the Armenian-populated rayons of Georgia along the border between the two countries, the reports on the destruction of a railway bridge linking Georgia and Azerbaijan, and the attacks on truck convoys taking humanitarian aid to Armenia to this difference between the countries.

After the recent explosion on a gas pipeline on Georgian territory the Armenian Government declared sharply that "...the existing situation threatens Armenia's fundamental interests" and its leadership "reserves the right to take all possible steps to ensure the safe functioning of the utilities entering Armenia." An emergency meeting of the leaders of the foreign policy departments had to be held in order to arrive at a common conclusion: All the problems which have emerged must be resolved as quickly as possible.

Eduard Shevardnadze's official visit to Armenia, which has already been postponed several times, could undoubtedly be a step toward improving relations. It is expected that the top-level meeting would result in the signing of a treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual aid and another 20 documents in the political, economic, and cultural spheres. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan believes that "there are and can be no political obstacles to the development of Armenian-Georgian ties."

Special Envoy Seeks 'Clarifications' on Moscow Karabakh Meeting

NC1503193093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] In his television address on 14 March, Davit Shakhnazaryan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary on special missions, said: I think the Russian Foreign Ministry must provide clarifications on the results of the meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev and Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin held in Moscow two weeks ago.

The televised address was devoted to the Minsk preparatory group's talks held in Rome on the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem within the CSCE framework.

Shakhnazaryan assessed Turkey's position in these negotiations as nonconstructive and nonobjective, because Ankara is unequivocally defending Baku's view on the resolution of the Karabakh question.

Shakhnazaryan, therefore, displayed a very cautious approach toward the meeting between the Russian and Turkish foreign ministers in Moscow and toward the alleged joint plan on the Karabakh problem drawn up at the conclusion of that meeting.

According to Shakhnazaryan, the so-called Russo-Turkish plan only satisfies Turkey at present. Shakhnazaryan said that while the Turkish side has announced that Cetin and Kozyrev soon will visit Yerevan and Baku on a peace mission to present the solution plan to the sides, the Russian side so far has made no statement.

Shakhnazaryan doubted the possibility of joint and coordinated steps by Russia and Turkey on the Karabakh problem, arguing that Russian and Turkish interests cannot coincide in the region.

Shakhnazaryan said: Regarding Armenia's position, the Karabakh conflict is a clash between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia merely is a side which has been drawn into the conflict. Therefore, it is baseless to describe the Karabakh conflict as an Armenian-Azerbaijani clash. Azerbaijan and Karabakh should solve the Karabakh problem through talks. Armenia supports any solution that is acceptable to the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR].

Regarding the agreement on the dispatch of international observers to Nagorno-Karabakh reached at the conclusion of the latest Rome talks—many politicians regarded this agreement as an important step forward—in Shakhnazaryan's opinion it means nothing given the fact that the so-called cease-fire schedule agreement has not yet been signed. This is because the international observers can arrive in the conflict zone only after the establishment of the cease-fire and formulation of the effective mechanisms for maintaining the cease-fire.

Shakhnazaryan said that due to the existing (?intransigent) position adopted by Azerbaijan, the Karabakh problem is being solved not at the negotiating table, but in Karabakh, where the Nagorno-Karabakh's self-defense forces are forging the existence of the NKR. Azerbaijan must take this into account, as it can in no way disregard the existence of Karabakh as an independent entity.

Karabakh Presidium Views Rome Talks With 'Caution'

NC1503151093 Yerevan SNARK in English 0911 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Stepanakert, March 15 (SNARK)—Karabakh Supreme Soviet press service informed SNARK agency of the fact that the public in Karabakh differently comprehended the results of the last Rome talks at the CSCE Minsk group. Many people don't share the optimism of the Karabakh delegation to the talks relating the adopted document on the CSCE observers powers in the conflict zone. The fact of the great concern is the fact that the document includes the possibility of escalation of military confrontation, because according to most skeptical estimations, the document is not conformed on the mutual reasonable compromises base. Realization of perspectives, which are within the document, the communication reads, might bring a unilateral isolation of Karabakh owing to the pressure from outer forces, which aren't interested in a peaceful settlement to the processes in the region. Consequences of such development of events might be unpredictable for all countries in the region. The Karabakh Supreme Soviet Presidium, according to the press service communication, regards the CSCE document with caution. So, during the last session of the presidium where have been discussed the results of the Karabakh delegation's work in Rome, passed a resolution which, in particular, tells that delegations participating in intergovernmental organizations work have to accurately follow the Karabakh state policy.

Military Gains in Karabakh; Border Fighting Noted

NC1503201393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Uninterrupted combat operations are taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh. The confrontation has not subsided. Unfortunately, the talks that have been held at international level have failed to yield the necessary results because of Azerbaijan's approach. That republic does not wish to recognize the NKR people's right to independence. Consequently, combat operations have increased and spread.

The main combat operations took place along the Mar-dakertskiy front line in Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] last week. The Armenian self-defense forces maintained their counterattacks and captured several heights. They also liberated a number of strategic towns from Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] units suffered many casualties in the clashes last week. The enemy side made several attempts to take the military initiative. However, the Armenian self-defense forces repelled its attacks.

ANA units attacked Metsshen and Maniklu in Mar-dakertskiy Rayon two days ago, but failed to achieve their objective. They suffered casualties in the violent clashes and were forced to retreat. The Armenian self-defense forces have liberated more than 20 towns and several strategic heights in that rayon since 5 February. They are effectively controlling those towns and the nearby heights.

Exchanges of fire and clashes continued on that part of the battlefield yesterday and this morning. There has been no significant change. Meanwhile, the confrontation in the other parts of Nagorno-Karabakh is mainly in the form of positional fighting. Martuninskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons and other residential areas have been fired on from Azerbaijan's positions in Agdamskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons with various types of arms several times during this period. The Artsakh [Karabakh] freedom fighters have been forced to take retaliatory measures to silence the enemy's emplacements.

As we reported earlier, the Azerbaijan Military Command Headquarters has made a strenuous effort to block the Lachin humanitarian corridor. It has massed a large number of reinforcements and military vehicles in areas close to the corridor. That process is being maintained. The NKR self-defense positions in the vicinity of the humanitarian corridor were fired on the night of 12 March. Fire was opened from Azerbaijan's positions in the northern and southern parts of the corridor. The NKR self-defense forces took retaliatory measures. Several men on both sides were killed or wounded as a result of the exchange. However, there was no significant

change in the vicinity of the corridor last night. Nevertheless, tension in the area is high. Meanwhile, the Goris-Lachin-Stepanakert road has remained open to traffic.

Tension on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been high in Tavushskiy, Krasnoselskiy, and Goris-skii Rayons during the past week. Residential areas in these rayons were fired on with various types of arms several times. Provocations continued yesterday and today. The Armenian Defense Ministry has disclosed that the enemy shelled Karmiragur in Tavushskiy Rayon with tanks and mortars last night. A woman was killed and damage was caused in the town. The Armenians returned the fire and the enemy halted its criminal activities. The situation in the other rayons in the Armenian-Azerbaijani border area was relatively peaceful last night and today.

The side interested in a cease-fire agreement should not be the first to open fire. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan's words and deeds are quite different. That is why exchanges of fire and clashes take place in the border periodically.

Discovery of Oil, Natural Gas Reserves Causes 'Sensation'

NC1503142893 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, March 15 (AFP)—Prospectors from the U.S. state of California have discovered energy reserves in Armenia containing 320 million barrels of oil and three trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Armenian authorities said here Monday.

The discovery was made in the last week of February, the Armenian government said in a statement received in Moscow, adding that the find was made by experts from the California bureau of land management.

The Armenian authorities gave no further details on where the reserves were located or how they would be developed, but said the discovery had caused a "sensation" in the country.

Armenia, which has unofficially been fighting a war with neighbouring Azerbaijan for more than five years, suffers from severe energy shortages due to a blockade on energy from Azerbaijan, a major oil producer.

The shortages have caused prolonged blackouts, lack of heating and electricity cuts throughout the country for the past several years.

A substantial number of Armenian expatriates live in California and many have taken part in organizations involved in aiding Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Russian Troops Withdraw From Southern Borders

NC1603073093 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1503 GMT
15 Mar 93

[Text] Baku, 15 Mar (AZERTAC)—The transfer of the republic's southern borders to the protection of Azerbaijani border troops has been completed six months earlier than expected by the Azerbaijani-Russian Agreement on the Temporary Status and Operations of Russian Border Troops in Azerbaijan. This process, which started last September with the change of the Nakhichevan border command, was completed within seven months.

Polkovnik Arif Eliyarov, the head of the Azerbaijani National Security Ministry's Border Troops Headquarters, said the border installations along the 604-kilometer-long southern border have been taken over. He noted that the border troops will conduct their duties in compliance with the regulations and the principles of good-neighborly relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Trade, Economic Accord With China Signed

LD1603125693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
0300 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] The PRC is prepared to cooperate with Azerbaijan in all spheres. This was stated by Xia Shuyuan, the recently appointed ambassador of China to Azerbaijan, when he was received by Isa Gambar, chairman of the Azerbaijan parliament. Isa Gambar said that the leadership of Azerbaijan has for long been enthusiastic about cooperation with China which has historical traditions.

During the (?meeting) a trade and economic agreement was signed between China and Azerbaijan. The document was signed on behalf of the two countries by Li Lanqing, minister of foreign relations and foreign affairs of China, and by Rauf Garayev, minister of foreign relations of Azerbaijan.

According to a report by XINHUA agency, an agreement on a state goods loan to be given by China to Azerbaijan and a memorandum on bilateral trade were also signed.

Azerbaijan-Turkey-Iran Pipeline Planned

LD1603121193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Azerbaijan plans to transport its oil to terminals in Turkey through the territory of Iran. This was announced at a briefing in Baku by Arif Aliyev, the head of the press service of the president of Azerbaijan. He reported that last week the leadership of the Azerbaijan State Oil Company, during a visit to Turkey, signed a preliminary agreement with the Turkish side about the starting of work connected with the building of an oil pipeline from Azerbaijan to Turkey. A visit by the

president of the company to Iran is planned for the end of this week. The question of the possibility of laying a section of the oil pipeline through Iranian territory will be discussed there.

Turkey Urges U.S. Role in Karabakh Peace Efforts

OW1603124593 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi
Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Mar 93

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] Turkey has once again reiterated that it would welcome an active U.S. role in achieving a peace agreement in Nagorno-Karabakh. "We would very much like the U.S. to take an active position," said the chairman of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a press conference in Ankara on Wednesday [10 March].

He also said that a Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation is expected in Ankara soon, to collectively try to find ways of establishing peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Russian and Turkish Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Andrey Kozyrev and Hikmet Cetin, agreed on this at a meeting in Moscow on 1 March.

According to REUTER, the Turkish position is based on the principle that Nagorno-Karabakh is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan.

Military Battles in Karabakh Updated

Armenian Offensive 'Foiled'

NC1303171393 Baku AZERTAC in English 1312 GMT
13 Mar 93

[Text] Baku, 13 Mar (AZERTAC)—According to the Defence Ministry Information Department the situation in Agderinskiy [Mardakertskiy] Rayon has been brought under control of Azerbaijan military forces, which foiled the attempts of the Armenian military corps to occupy Agderinskiy area of Azerbaijan.

Villages of Kazakh, Tauz and Akstafa areas of Azerbaijan were shelled from territory of Armenia. The information about victims is being verified.

3 Karabakh Villages Retaken

NC1603110193 Baku TURAN in English 0904 GMT
16 Mar 93

[Text] Baku 16 March (TURAN)—As the press-centre of the Ministry of Defence of the republic informs, military activities on the north of Karabakh go on. Azerbaijani sub-units succeeded to gain several kilometres, to return three villages and several high points in this region. Battles go on at present time near villages of Kasapet and Gulyatag.

The same source informed that last Sunday Armenians transferred via Lachin to Karabakh 10 units of armoured technique. In the result of shellings two tanks of the enemy were destroyed.

By information of the press-service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan Armenian soldiers yield themselves prisoners last time more frequent [as received]. As it was informed a special camp for the Armenian prisoners of war will be created soon near Baku.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Confronts Russia Over Abkhazia Events

Holds 'Serious' Talks With Russian Envoy

LD1503171293 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Today, 15 March, E. Shevardnadze, chairman of Parliament and head of state of the Republic of Georgia, received Mr. Vladimir Zemskiy, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Georgia, at the latter's request. They had a serious conversation about contemporary issues in Georgian-Russian relations.

Says Russian Politics 'Deformed'

LD1503200093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The traditional Monday radio interview given by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of parliament and head of state, was almost entirely devoted to events in Russia and Georgian-Russian relations. The head of state called the current political situation in Russia deformed politics, rather like death throes, when they are trying to let off steam. While noting at the same time that he is carefully following events, he said that he can see very well that there are healthy forces in Russia, primarily the intelligentsia, that are voicing particular protest against interference in the affairs of another state.

Eduard Shevardnadze added that he has said on more than one occasion that the Russian president had an opportunity of holding a referendum much earlier, but he was too late, thus losing valuable time. It is true, things have not got as far as a coup or civil war, but the end of the Congress of People's Deputies and the beginning of new phenomena require time to make sense of them. "I voiced fears earlier about the possibility of Russia falling apart now facing Yeltsin, but unfortunately the Russian leaders were late in realizing this," Eduard Shevardnadze stated.

Eduard Shevardnadze described the position of the U.S. President and the leaders of other major countries toward events in Russia as being as most strongly supportive of the president as is permissible.

He called the Russian-Georgian talks problematic, and stressed that these talks might simply not be completed, since Russia is proposing signing treaties in turn, while Georgia is proposing a whole package of treaties at once.

An end to this problem will probably be found at a summit meeting with the president of Russia.

Concerning the Abkhaz problem, Eduard Shevardnadze called the events in Sukhumi over recent days high-handed interference by Russia in the internal affairs of Georgia. "This is exceeding all bounds of what is permissible, and is a reflection of the events under way in Russia itself," the head of state said.

Sees 'High-Handed Interference'

LD1503170093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1526 GMT 15 Mar 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 15 March—Eduard Shevardnadze today accused Russia of "high-handed interference" in Georgia's internal affairs.

Presenting Parliament with an analysis of hostilities in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, Eduard Shevardnadze spoke of Russian interference in the conflict and claimed that there are forces in Russia which want to stir up enmity between the two countries.

In another development today, Georgia's Ministry of Defense issued a statement claiming that on 13 March Su-25 military planes, which had taken off from an airfield near Gudauta, staged a night bombing raid on residential areas of Sukhumi. "This was another attempt by reactionary forces in Russia to wreck the talks aimed at stabilizing and settling the armed conflict in Georgia," the statement says.

The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia has also issued a statement attacking "unconcealed interference by the Russian Armed Forces" in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

Sukhumi Bombing 'Beyond All Limits'

OW1503184193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 15 Mar 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has described the situation in Russia after the 8th Congress of People's Deputies as "something akin to agony." During his Monday [15 March] radio broadcast he said that Russia still contained "strong movements" capable of bringing the nation out of crisis. The main element here, he continued, is the intelligentsia.

Shevardnadze said that what had taken place at the Congress was neither a communist revolt nor a civil war. He viewed the finale of the congress as the beginning of "very complicated and serious events."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Georgian leader told St. Petersburg television Saturday that the leaders of the seven leading industrial nations should meet immediately and "take emergency measures to boost Russian democracy and offer President Yeltsin real support." Regarding events at the 8th Congress of Russian People's Deputies Shevardnadze said that if no compromise was found between the different branches of power "there would be an immense threat not only to Russia, where the most reactionary forces were at work, but for the world in general. We and the whole world will be doing business with an unstable Russia." Describing Boris Yeltsin as the mainstay of the democratic transformations in Russia, Shevardnadze stressed that "we and the whole world must stand by him (Yeltsin)."

Shevardnadze said that recent events in Sukhumi had "gone beyond all limits." He said that the "unceremonious intervention in the affairs of another state demonstrated in various forms such as the bombardment of the city were an echo of the worsening situation in Russia." He considered that Russia's "so-called peace mission in Abkhazia was now under question."

The head of state was convinced that the forces which were carrying out the bombing raids were attempting to provoke a certain reaction from Georgia in respect to Russian military installations. In this case, Shevardnadze continued, "their hands will be untied for open intervention and the launching of a punitive expedition." This, he said, could have tragic consequences both for Russia and for Georgia. Shevardnadze appealed to Georgian citizens to "think a thousand times" before taking retaliatory measures. He said that Georgian measures to prevent intervention in the republic's internal affairs must bring positive results within the next few days.

The Georgian leader has invited accredited journalists from Moscow to Sukhumi to become familiar with the situation in Abkhazia. He said that the UN Security Council mission should arrive in Abkhazia as soon as possible. He had been informed that the mission was now ready and that its arrival could be expected between March 20 and 25.

Regarding Georgia's internal problems Shevardnadze expressed his alarm over the lack of cash in circulation in the republic. He said that salaries had not been issued for four days. He accused Russia of failing to fulfill previous agreements on granting Georgia financial resources. "If mutually acceptable conditions can be found we must speed up the introduction of our own currency," Shevardnadze stressed. He said that such measures could be taken within the next two or three weeks. He considered, however, that this could have "quite a few negative consequences."

Hostilities in Abkhazia Said To Intensify

Georgian Troops Launch Offensive

LD1503210793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1109 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar—Following artillery bombardment, Georgian troops last night attempted a large-scale offensive along the entire Gumista front in Abkhazia, the Abkhazian defense ministry reports. Abkhazian armed forces repelled the attack. Combat operations also continue in Ochamchira Rayon.

On 14 March, the army seismic laboratory in Eshery, guarded by a Russian Federation paratrooper unit, was again shelled by Grad rocket launchers. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been informed by the press center of the Russian Defense Ministry that there were no casualties. Despite an order to return fire in case of attacks, Russian servicemen refrained from such actions.

Abkhaz Forces Capture Strategic Heights

LD1603091993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0805 GMT 16 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 16 Mar—The situation in Abkhazia has deteriorated sharply. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the Sochi headquarters for Abkhaz refugees that last night the Georgian side carried out mass shelling of Abkhaz positions. At around 0200 Georgian troops made an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Gumista river. During the fighting some Abkhaz units succeeded in crossing to the opposite bank of the river.

Combat activities were stepped up at daybreak. Both sides are using air power. According to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Abkhazia, as a result of the fighting the Abkhaz army has taken control of one of the commanding heights of the north-eastern part of Sukhumi.

Russian Forces Deny Involvement

LD1603122393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Mar 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Abkhazia has deteriorated sharply. Tamaz Nadareyshvili, chairman of the pro-Georgian Abkhaz Council of Ministers in Sukhumi, has stated that on the night of Monday-Tuesday Russian aircraft bombed Sukhumi. Nadareyshvili contends that Russian Federation [RF] armed forces are taking part in the offensive that the Abkhaz forces have begun on Sukhumi.

However, Lieutenant General Viktor Sorokin, commander of the RF group of forces in Abkhazia, has denied the report that RF troops, and in particular RF aircraft, are involved in the Abkhaz forces' assault on Sukhumi. The RF troops in the republic are maintaining strict neutrality. But if our facilities are attacked, we will retaliate. We demand that the 500-meter security zone around the Russian installations be scrupulously observed, the RF lieutenant general declared. Abkhazia's Defense Ministry has told INTERFAX that Abkhaz aircraft have bombed Georgian positions in the Sukhumi area. The Georgian Defense Ministry press center has confirmed to INTERFAX reports that fighting is currently going on the outskirts of Sukhumi. According to its data, at about 0800 this morning Abkhaz formations broke through the Georgian troops' defenses on the Gumista river in several places. The situation is difficult, but not hopeless, the press center stated. Trainloads of reinforcements and weaponry are being awaited in Sukhumi.

Shevardnadze May Fly to Sukhumi 'Shortly'

OW1603123693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reports from Gudauta, fierce battles, involving tanks heavy artillery, and aircraft continued around Sukhumi at 11.00 on Tuesday [16 March].

The press-service of Abkhazia's Supreme Soviet says that both sides have suffered major losses.

By the morning, four were killed and 34 wounded Abkhazis had been admitted to a hospital in Gudauta. Earlier, a correspondent from the Moldovan news agency "Olivia-Press," Anatoliy Gromov, had been wounded.

The Georgian defence ministry's press center has confirmed information that fighting is under way on the outskirts of Sukhumi. It reports that at about 8.00 in the morning on Tuesday Abkhazian troops broke through Georgian defence lines along the Gumista river in several places. The press center declared that "the situation is complex but not hopeless". Reinforcements with arms are expected in Sukhumi.

Meanwhile, according to information from the Georgian embassy in Moscow after noon, the Abkhazian attack on Sukhumi has been curbed, and "the group of militants that crossed the Gumista river has been turned back".

Earlier, the Embassy press-service reported with reference to the chairman of the pro-Georgian council of ministers of Abkhazia in Sukhumi, Tamaz Nadareishvili, that a group of attackers had managed to cross the Gumista river. He suggested that Russian armed forces were taking part in the offensive launched by Abkhazian troops on Sukhumi. He also claimed with reference to a report by the Embassy in Moscow that on

early Tuesday morning, Russian aircraft had bombed Sukhumi, causing numerous casualties and destruction.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Interfax, the commander of the group of Russian troops in Abkhazia, Lieutenant-General Viktor Sorokin has refuted the report that Russian troops and aircraft are involved in the Abkhaz offensive on Sukhumi. "The Russian troops have been strictly neutral in the republic. But if our facilities are attacked, we'll retaliate. We demand that the 500-meter security zone around the Russian facilities be scrupulously observed" - the general declared.

Abkhazia's defence ministry has reported to Interfax that Georgian positions at Sukhumi have been bombed by Abkhaz aircraft.

The press-service of Abkhazia's Supreme Soviet has reported that after crossing the Gumista river on Tuesday morning, Abkhaz troops are engaged in fierce battles for strategic heights in Sukhumi suburbs.

According to its information, Georgian troops backed up by artillery attempted an offensive on the Abkhaz positions along the Gumista river on the night to Tuesday. After halting the attackers by retaliatory fire, the Abkhaz forces launched counter-offensive.

Some of the wounded admitted to the Gudauta hospital report that separate Abkhaz units are in Sukhumi.

A leaflet being printed in Gudauta urges Georgian servicemen to lay down their arms and stop resistance.

Other reports say that 6 gun boats tried to land troops at Agudzera in the morning on Tuesday. The Georgian coast guards sank one boat and forced the others to retreat.

The press-secretary of the Georgian leader Revaz Edgadze has reported to an Interfax correspondent that Eduard Shevardnadze may fly to Sukhumi shortly.

Tbilisi Protests Armenian Battalion in Abkhazia

OW1503151693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Government has sent a letter of protest to the Armenian Parliament in connection with the formation of an Armenian battalion in Abkhazia. The head of the pro-Georgian Abkhazian government in Sukhumi, Tamaz Nadareishvili, told INTERFAX the news that such a battalion had been formed came from Gudauta. The report containing it said the battalion was ready to "defend the Armenian-Abkhazian land." Abkhazia has tens of thousands of ethnic Armenians.

Parliament Issues Decree on Negotiations in Moscow

AU1603094393 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA
in Georgian 12 Mar 93 p 1

["Decree of the Georgian Parliament Concerning Debates 'On Questions of Russian-Georgian Mutual Relations at the Present Stage'" issued in Tbilisi on 11 March]

[Text] Having discussed questions of Russian-Georgian mutual relations at the present stage and considering it necessary to create a solid legal basis in the form of a treaty for regulating these relations, the Georgian Parliament decrees:

1. In spite of the fact that recent actions by the Russian authorities and Armed Forces have aggravated Russian-Georgian relations, to entrust the Republic of Georgia Government delegation at the Russian-Georgian negotiations to continue negotiations with the Russian side in order to finally legalize and sign the entire package of proposed treaties.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Government delegation at the Russian-Georgian negotiations:

a) to direct its efforts in such a way that a treaty is adopted between the two countries that corresponds to international legal norms and that is based on the principles of equality and non-interference in one another's internal affairs, the inviolability of territorial integrity and state sovereignty, and friendly support and assistance in questions of political, economic, and social development;

b) to focus particular attention on those points of the treaty that can give the other side grounds for interfering in the internal affairs of Georgia for any reason;

c) during elaboration of the economic bloc of treaties, to be guided by the priorities of preserving the economic sovereignty of Georgia, forming one's own monetary-credit and financial system, and establishing mutually beneficial commercial conditions;

d) to see to it that in the treaty connected with military questions, the timetable for the withdrawal of Russian troops be set for no later than 1995 and their legal status regarding property questions be regulated.

4. [Number as published] To entrust Parliament's secretariat to send comments and alternative variants of separate formulations expressed by members of Parliament during debates to the Republic of Georgia Government delegation at the Russian-Georgian negotiations so that it may take them into account.

[Signed] VAKHTANG GOGUADZE, speaker of the Georgian Parliament.

[Dated] Tbilisi, 11 March 1993

Statute on Service Rules for 'Foreign' Officers Issued

AU1303183493 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA
in Georgian 5 Mar 93 p 3

["Statute on the Rules of Service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces on a Contractual Basis for Officers and Other Servicemen in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and Other Republics of the Former USSR (henceforth 'foreign states')"]

[Text] The statute determines the rules of service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces on a contractual basis for officers and other servicemen in the armed forces of foreign states and their status and social guarantees and those of the members of their families.

1. General Rules

1. The registration of officers and other servicemen (henceforth "serviceman") of the armed forces of foreign states in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces will proceed on the basis of an agreement between the Republic of Georgia, the Russian Federation, and other republics of the former USSR.

2. A serviceman will perform military service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces on a contractual basis. The length of the contract will be four years, which can be extended several times or broken before the expiration date.

3. A serviceman who is performing military service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces can, according to his wish, acquire dual citizenship: the status of a citizen of the Republic of Georgia and that of the Russian Federation and other former Union republics in accordance with the rules established by those states.

4. The rights and obligations and responsibility and guarantees of their implementation established according to the Republic of Georgia Constitution, legislation on the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces that has been regulated, and international-legal ratified normative acts extend to a serviceman who is performing military service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces.

5. To establish that the number of servicemen of foreign countries working under contract in the republic's Armed Forces is not to exceed 10 percent of the total personnel.

2. The Rules for Performing Service and Social Questions

6. A serviceman performs military service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces under the terms established in the contract. He is appointed in the main to a command or staff position or as a consultant and performs his military service in accordance with the statute on the rules of service for officer personnel in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces.

7. A serviceman who performs his military service in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces firmly upholds and fulfills the requirements laid down in the rules, regulations, instructions, manuals, orders, directives, and contract of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces.

8. Republic of Georgia normative acts on the status of and social guarantees for servicemen and the members of their families, the performance of military service, the rules for leaving military service, pension provision, benefits, rights, and privileges extend to a servicemen.

9. A serviceman has the right to personal property that is established in Georgian legislation.

10. The conditions for taking leave, which are established in the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces, are extended to a serviceman under contract.

11. Service in the Armed Forces of a foreign country by a serviceman is included in his service record.

12. The financial remuneration of a serviceman is determined taking into account percentage supplements

according to duties performed, rank held, and service record that are one and one-half times higher than those in his own country.

The remuneration of a serviceman under contract is paid in the currency that is being used in the ruble zone.

13. A serviceman's pension is allocated on the basis of an agreement between the Republic of Georgia and the foreign states.

14. Upon retirement, a serviceman has the right to choose his place of residence and citizenship.

15. A serviceman may be released from military service before the date of expiration of the contract in the following cases:

state of health;

breaking the terms of the contract;

personal wish;

in the event of a sentence imposed by the court for a criminal offence that he has committed.

Estonia

Police Raid Russian-Held Baltic Base of Paldiski

'Hundreds' Join Operation

OW1303155893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1532
GMT 13 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [12 March] evening the Estonian police, together with the units of the country's frontier guard and volunteer paramilitary organization Kaitseliit, started a widescale operation to reveal criminal organizations on the territory of the closed city of Paldiski, the base of the Russian Baltic Fleet. The decision to conduct this operation was adopted by the government; the director of the police department Igor Aman heads the operation.

According to the information received by BALTFAX, over several hundreds of people are participating in this operation. In addition, three patrol boats of the frontier guard, later on one of them will permanently be based in this region, are also taking part.

The law enforcement bodies have revealed several places where weapons and ammunitions were kept, several persons have been arrested.

The general director of Estonia's frontier guard department Andrus Oovel reported to BALTFAX that the command of the Russian military base headed by Admiral Olkhovnikov was not warned about the operation beforehand. No hindrances on the part of the Russian servicemen during the operation are reported.

Until now the Russian troops prohibited a free access to Paldiski. A training center for submariners with two nuclear reactors is located on the territory of the military base in Paldiski.

Estonian Control Sought

LD1503115493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in
Estonian 1500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Estonian authorities began an extensive operation yesterday at Paldiski, a closed town under Russian naval control, in order to combat crime and ensure security and order. The operation's final aim is to subordinate the town to the Estonian authorities. Reinforced police units, border guards, and members of Kaitseliit's [defense league] Tallinn, Harju, and Nomme units entered Paldiski at around 1900 in the evening, to arrive at 22 previously set sites, which are supposed to be gathering places for criminals.

At the same time, three coast guard patrol-boats blocked Paldiski harbor, the Kaitseliit took the two roads leading into the town as well as the railroad under its control.

Several hundred men took part in the operation which was led by Igor Amann, director-general of the police department.

The leadership of Paldiski naval base headed by Admiral (Volkhovikov) had not been previously informed of the operation and it came as a surprise to the naval commanders. However, no confrontations with the military arose, there was no exchange of fire, and nobody was injured.

As of 1200 today everything was proceeding peacefully at Paldiski. According to the border guards the Russian military have preserved full neutrality and have not been involved.

According to Tiit Pruuli, adviser to the premier, several places where criminals gather were located last night, as well as weapons in illegal possession and ammunition. The operation will last over the entire weekend.

Andrus Oovel, director-general of the border guard department, told the Baltic News Service last night that the aim of the operation is to ensure security for the population of Paldiski. According to him, the border guards have arrived at Paldiski in order to stay. Oovel stated that one of the coast-guard patrol boats will be guarding the area of Paldiski harbor even after the end of the operation.

Of the 230 border guards who finish their course today at Remniku border guard training center a section will be sent to Paldiski tonight.

A decision for the carrying out of an extensive operation was made at the government level. According to the Baltic News Service an option previously considered at Paldiski also involved the Estonian defense forces. Although an Estonian police station and a border guard economic unit were stationed at Paldiski, the situation had in essence been controlled by Russian soldiers.

Thousands of Russian soldiers and their family members are stationed at Paldiski. There is a training center for Russian submarine crews with two nuclear reactors in the town. Thanks to this fact Paldiski was granted the status of a closed town and Russian military authorities have refused visits even to Estonian ministers.

The Estonian authorities have been concerned about the illegal arms trade and thefts taking place in Russian military units. In January, 261 guns and 43 submachine guns went missing from a military unit at Paldiski, amounting to one of the biggest arms thefts in Estonia in recent times.

Prime Minister: Paldiski 'Under Control'

OW1503204693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1910
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mart Laar, Estonia's Prime-Minister, described a recent round up of criminals in Paldiski, where the Russian navy has a base, as a very successful operation. The police, frontier guards, and Kaitseliit voluntary paramilitary service units were engaged in the Friday [12 March] night operation. Eleven persons were detained, 36 cars checked, a radio station, a shotgun, a sawed-off rifle, and explosives were seized.

At a Monday news conference the prime-minister emphasized that the situation in Paldiski was brought under control. We do not intend, he said, to stand idly by and just watch what is going on our territory beyond the reach of police and administrative bodies. "If we are to fight organized crime we must have access to any spot in the Republic," said the prime-minister. He explained that the police action had been under preparation for a long time; leakages were prevented. "This demonstrates that our services have started working more efficiently," Mart Laar noted. He also said that the navy base command knew little of the government's intentions and did not obstruct them from being realised. He also called for helping the Russian servicemen in guarding the military nuclear reactors in Paldiski.

During the Kozyrev-Brazauskas talks the Lithuanian side also broached the subject of returning the Lithuanian embassy buildings in Paris and Rome, currently occupied by Russian organizations, under the Lithuanian authority. Kozyrev said that the matter had to be studied and should be resolved through negotiations.

In response to a BALTFAX question on whether the resumption of the Lithuanian-Russian negotiations broken off last fall was discussed, Raimundas Rajackas, chief presidential advisor, said that it was not. But at the beginning of the talks Kozyrev made it clear that he would like to see shortly a new Lithuanian delegation in talks with Russia.

Negotiations With Russia Sought

WS1603092093 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1947 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Tallinn, March 15—Estonia's government will start negotiations with the Russian military in order to abolish a special regime in a north Estonian town, Paldiski, a former Soviet nuclear submarine base, Estonia's Premier, Mart Laar, told a news conference on Monday [15 March].

"The government wants Paldiski to become an Estonian town again and we are doing everything in our power to achieve it. We intend to move step by step, but with sufficient determination," Laar said while adding that the government had never considered taking the town by force as it would be very dangerous considering the two reactors and huge supplies of ammunition still held in the town.

The government expects to start negotiations with the military soon and also solve the problem of defending the reactors.

"Our proposition is to strengthen the fence surrounding the reactor building and let Estonia's police or defence forces to guard it. It is yet difficult to say how soon it would be possible to open the town," Laar said.

Around 1,500 Russian soldiers and officers are still stationed in Paldiski, the Premier said.

Estonia's police, Defence League and border guards launched a special operation in Paldiski late last Friday checking all objects previously listed as suspicious and arrested 11 people. A gun and lots of ammunition was confiscated. Two Russian military were caught stealing copper.

Russian military were previously informed of the operation.

It was a message to organised crime that no regions in Estonia is out of the reach of Estonia's police, the Director General of the National Police Board, Igor Amann, said. Several "visiting" criminals had chosen Paldiski as their residence as it was considered to be a safe town.

Russia Said Neglecting Territorial Water Markers

WS1603091593 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1533 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Tallinn, March 15—Russia is neglecting seamarks in Estonia's territorial waters while refusing to turn them over to Estonia thus prompting speculations upon their deliberate jeopardizing of maritime transport in the Baltic Sea.

"Russian hydrographs either cannot or won't keep seamarks in order while Estonian specialist are not officially allowed to do it," the head of the lighthouse and hydrographic service of the Estonian National Maritime Board, Vido Kraav, told ETA.

About a third of seamarks in Estonia's waters are out of working order, Kraav said.

The seamarks are still held by the Russian navy who should also service them, Kraav said.

An agreement upon turning the seamarks over to Estonia was initialed on December 17, 1992 in Lohusalu, at Estonian-Russian interstate negotiations.

Under the agreement, Russia has to turn the marks over to Estonia by July 1, 1993.

The agreement, however, has not been signed.

In Estonia, the seamarks are the responsibility of a civil organization and, accordingly, Estonia's Minister of Transport and Communications, Andi Meister, was authorized to sign the agreement.

According to Russian legislation, seamarks are the responsibility of Russian navy and the agreement has to be signed by Russia's Minister of Defence.

Estonia's Foreign Ministry has already sent two notes to Russia's Ministry of Defence upon speeding up the turnover as the condition of the seamarks is catastrophic. There has been no response.

The heads of hydrographic services of the three Baltic countries, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have discussed the issue repeatedly and have expressed opinion that Russia is deliberately neglecting the seamarks while delaying the turnover to jeopardize maritime transport in the Baltics as Baltic ports are competitors to Russia's St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad ports.

Border Troops Facing 'Acute' Personnel Shortages

OW1403164493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1523
GMT 14 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia's Frontier Troops are facing acute personnel shortages, a high-ranking member of the Frontier Defence Department, who preferred to remain anonymous, told BF [BALTFAX].

In January, he said, only one-third of the required number of recruits joined the Frontier Defence Forces. Training centers are half-empty. Under the circumstances it's impossible to ensure appropriate protection for the border with Russia, particularly in Lake Chudskoye area, the official stressed.

'Estonian Assembly' Founded in Tallinn

LD1503135093 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in
Estonian 1800 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] The Estonian Assembly was founded today in Tallinn. Invited to the constituent meeting of the Estonian Assembly were those individuals who at the latest parliamentary elections in fact received a mandate from their voters but because of the election law were not included in the Riigikogu.

Of those invited, about 20 turned up at the meeting, in the Eesti Kommunaalprojekt Hall. Of the present Riigikogu members Juri Toomepuu, Toomas Alatalu, Edgar Savisaar, and Tiit Made took part as guests. [Former Defense Minister] Ulo Uluots was elected to chair the meeting.

So what are we left with after the speeches were made? Almost every speaker considered it necessary to emphasize that the Estonian Assembly has no claims to power. A strictly legal way will be used to get their problems acknowledged. The Estonian Assembly could be a pressure group of a kind, to attempt to influence the Riigikogu and the government to make just decisions. [passage omitted]

Did the Estonian Assembly's first working day fulfill your expectations?

[Toomepuu] Yes, my expectations were fulfilled even before the working day started as I believe the assembly is one of the reasons Premier Laar invited leaders of other parties to a roundtable meeting. In fact, I would say that the convening of the Estonian Assembly now is perhaps a sequel to the roundtable discussion which we enjoyed yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] One can assume that the Estonian Assembly will be the place for the opposition to meet. In Tiit Made's opinion it is unlikely that the government coalition would get involved in the assembly.

The organizing group of the Estonian Assembly was set up today, made up of Oleg Burov, Harry Kingo, Harri Karstner, Heimar Lenk, Rein Metsik, Ants Tamme, and Juhan Telgmaa. Juri Toomepuu, the leader of the Estonian Citizens Association, will also be taking part in the working group.

State Bank Chief Interviewed on Economy, Trade

PM1503143193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
12 Mar 93 First Edition p 4

[Interview with Siim Kallas, president of the State Bank of Estonia, by Leonid Levitskiy in Tallinn; date not given: "Bank of Estonia Does Not Change Policy with Change of Governments"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpts] S. Kallas is well known in Estonia as an economist, journalist, and politician and as one of the drafters of the concept of IME—the Self-Management of Estonia [the Estonian acronym IME also means "miracle"]. He is now markedly neutral toward politics and politicians. The situation, as the saying goes, demands it, he is president of the State Bank—the Bank of Estonia. He has remained chief banker under two parliaments and three governments.

[Levitskiy] You championed a national currency and elaborated a monetary reform strategy back in the Soviet period. Has the kroon lived up to your expectations?

[Kallas] It has done so 110 percent, you know. The kroon has come into being and has changed life for the better in many respects. It has seen off all the fears and gloomy forecasts. One example—inflation has decreased by a factor of ten. [passage omitted]

[Levitskiy] Freedom of convertibility means freedom for freely convertible currency to flow out of the country. Estonia's reserves of such currency are not, I think, endless.

[Kallas] Absolutely, and we did fear an outflow of currency, especially since under the old, Union method of computing the balance of payments, the republic purchased \$200 million more than it sold during the year. But our intuition did not let us down. During the transition to the kroon we

had currency reserves of \$120 million. They have now increased to almost \$260 million.

[Levistkiy] Many people, both inside and outside Estonia, put the strength of the kroon down to non-repayable aid and credits from Western countries. Last year aid was estimated at 1.5 billion kroon. As much again was made up of credits on pretty favorable terms. Taken together, they are equivalent to the republic's annual budget.

[Kallas] Those figures were cited by a member of the government, but they are not altogether correct. We are very grateful to Western countries for returning to Estonia the gold it sent abroad before the war, and for their constant support. The returned gold facilitated the launching of reform. But the doubling of the currency reserves is the result of the reform. It is always easier to consume donated or borrowed money than it is to increase it. We have done the latter.

IMF experts calculated that last year Estonia would sell to Western countries goods worth at best \$100 million. We sold goods worth \$300 million. We earned another \$200 million in CIS countries.

[Levitskiy] Have you switched from the Eastern to the Western market during the year?

[Kallas] I would not use such terminology. The world is a single market. People trade wherever it is more advantageous to do so. It is unnatural for Estonia to send 95 percent of its exports (the 1991 figure) to the CIS. It is equally unnatural to redirect the whole flow of its goods to the West. Extremes are always abnormal. But the umbilical cord of dependence on the Eastern market has been severed. Last year the CIS accounted for 30 percent of our exports and 40 percent of our imports.

Russia, our chief trading partner for 50 years, has conceded that role to Finland. And a considerable gap has opened up. Moreover, Estonia has sold Russia twice as many goods as it bought from us. True, there is nothing to rejoice about here: The ties between our countries are still far from desirable.

[Levitskiy] Is everything so simple: Earn more, spend less?

[Kallas] It is an easy thing to say, but life is sometimes very difficult. Every family knows how difficult belt-tightening is, we are unable to support the population, even pensioners, properly. The same applies to science, culture, education, and enterprise. We have been forced to pursue a very tough monetary policy. The laws demand that parliament, the government, and the Bank of Estonia maintain a deficit-free budget and a stable kroon exchange rate. Unlike the other countries of the former USSR, we have a steadfast financial policy. It does not change with changes of governments. We have a uniform policy course: A balanced budget means a strong currency.

Not all entrepreneurs are able to fend for themselves. The major enterprises which always worked for the East

find it very tough. And here there is no difference whether they be Estonian- or Russian-speaking. Success is not achieved by virtue of the nationality or linguistic community to which you belong. The giant "Dvigatel" military-industrial complex is completely "Russian." And it has held its ground—it has avoided unemployment, has found some avenues to the West, and turns a profit—while quite a few Estonian enterprises are on the verge of bankruptcy.

Yes, tough monetary policy is inevitably accompanied by unemployment, social stratification, social tension, and bankruptcy. The slump in output, particularly in the countryside, is alarming. But the crisis cannot be overcome without reform of ownership, privatization, and the creation of conditions favorable to enterprise. A reliable national currency is the first step of the transformations and establishes a sound basis for a developing market economy.

State Property Department, Privatization Firm To Merge

WS1603091093 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1806 GMT 15 Mar 93

[From 13 March POSTIMEES p 3 and PUHAPAEVA-LEHT p 6]

[Text] Monday, March 15—After the meeting of a government work group dealing with privatization laws the Reform Minister Liia Hanni said that the commission thought that only one institution should organize privatization in Estonia, therefore the work group suggests that the State Property Department and the Estonian Privatization Company be united.

The Reform Minister noted that the joint State Property Department or the State Treasury (a name change is possible) will enjoy great powers in administration, privatization, municipality and control over state property. Representatives of agricultural, social, financial, road ministry as well as the state property department and the privatization company participated in the meeting.

Latvia

Prime Minister Meets Estonian Counterpart

OW1603113593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1048 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Prime-Ministers of Latvia and Estonia Ivars Godmanis and Mart Laar met in Igate, north Latvia on Monday [15 March] to discuss the financial and economic situation in their countries, mutual settlements following the gradual introduction of a Latvian national currency as well as the coming introduction of entry and exit visas in Latvia.

Admiral on Plans for Navy Withdrawal From Liepaja

LD1203191393 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report from Liepaja by correspondent Normunds Karkls]

[Text] Three days of talks ended in Liepaja today between the Liepaja city council and Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander of the Russian Baltic Fleet. Agreement was reached that by the end of the year 70 percent of the currently deployed Russian troops and navy will be removed from Liepaja. At present there are 4,500 Russian officers, soldiers, and sailors serving in Liepaja. In the naval base, including the cutters and service ships, there are 130 larger and smaller vessels, in various conditions. The Russian Navy will be redeployed from Liepaja to Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg.

(?I asked) how the defiled Liepaja harbor will be cleaned up. Admiral Yegorov replied that agreement on that has not been reached with the Liepaja city council, because money is lacking on both sides.

Presidium Reviews Plans To Counter Russian Army Activity

OW1403164793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1523 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [11 March] the Presidium of Latvia's parliament held a close-door session to discuss a plan for concrete actions to ensure the possible counteraction of the Russian Army. According to the newspaper DIENA, the problem emerged "in connection with reports that the Russian military had intensified their activity in the republic".

Agreement on Cooperation With Russian Border Guards

WS1503120693 Tallinn BNS in English 1854 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Riga, 13 March 1993. BNS—Latvian and Russian frontier guards agreed to cooperate in detaining illegal immigrants from Asia and the near East, officials said Friday [12 March].

Under the agreement, the above persons, attempting to cross into Latvia by Moscow trains, will be detained by Russian frontier guards at the Sebeza (Russia) station.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between the commandment of the Latvian Frontier Guard brigade and delegation of the Pskov (Russia) Frontier Guards Headquarters, headed by Lieutenant General Kostenko, Friday.

Both delegations emphasized that relations between Latvian and Russian frontier guards should be businesslike and professional, irrespective of governmental policies.

Government To Introduce Entry Visas on 22 Mar

LD1303151093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0740 GMT on 12 March broadcasts a report from Riga. A correspondent says that Latvia has introduced a system of entry visas, to take effect on 22 March. All foreign citizens, including those of former Soviet Union republics, must have entry visas, to be obtained from Latvia's diplomatic missions abroad. This will include Moscow, Kiev, Tashkent, Minsk, and St. Petersburg. It will take 10 days to issue a single visa for a private individual at a cost of \$10. However, an invitation from Latvia, endorsed by the local authorities, will be needed to apply for a visa. Because not all consulates are yet ready to process the applications, visas will temporarily be issued at the border and in Riga airport until 20 April. After that date, visas can only be obtained at diplomatic establishments. Various types of visas will be issued: diplomatic, official, private, transit, single-entry, multiple-entry, and urgent—in cases where it is necessary to obtain a visa without delay. Carriers of freight in transit through or into Latvia will receive visas quickly at border checkpoints.

The correspondent continues: "Another leg of Latvian-Russian talks is scheduled to take place in Moscow between 17 and 19 March. It is planned to sign a bilateral consular agreement there. Questions concerning servicemen crossing the border under the new conditions, that is to say, soldiers of the Russian Army, conditions in the border zone, and other questions are also to be discussed." The correspondent continues by saying that the introduction of visas, "as has been officially announced, is a necessary step, caused by the need to put a halt to the illegal inflow of refugees into Latvia."

Further Details

LD1603141493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] As the Department of Citizenship and Immigration announced today, from 22 March an entry visa will be necessary for all citizens of the CIS states coming to Latvia. It will be possible to receive it at the diplomatic representations and consular establishments of the Republic of Latvia abroad. Temporary issuing of private visas has been organized at Riga Airport and at the Riga marine passenger terminal. These will be issued only to those citizens of the CIS states and also of Georgia and Azerbaijan in possession of an invitation by a private individual or corporate body residing in or registered in the Republic of Latvia. Also a transit visa is envisaged which will enable a stay in the territory of Latvia for not longer than 48 hours. A visa of a third country will be necessary to receive this type of visa. It is pointed out in the department's announcement that persons without

Latvian entry visas will be detained at the border points and will be sent back to the state from which they have arrived.

Supreme Council Adopts Changes to Election Law

*LD1603161493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1400 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[Text] Supreme Council Deputies today adopted alterations to the law on elections to the fifth Saeima. These alterations specify that any citizen of Latvia can be entered as a candidate if he has signed, according to the procedure laid down by the Central Elections Commission, a statement that he has not been and is not at the present time a worker of the USSR/Latvian SSR State Security Committee, of the USSR Ministry of Defense, of the security services or the army intelligence services, or counterintelligence staff or nonstaff of Russia or other states, nor an agent, resident, or keeper of a conspiratorial apartment belonging to these establishments.

The deputies approved in the final version a more categorical form regarding this draft law, laying down that citizens of Latvia who have been included in the statement mentioned in the first part of this article and also those whose rights to work in state power and administration institutions have been restricted in other legislative acts must not apply as candidates.

The Supreme Council deputies adopted additions to the election law at the first reading. This specifies that citizens of the Republic of Latvia registered in foreign countries may take part in the ballot, voting by post. This addition will be examined at the plenary sitting tomorrow, in the second reading, as a matter of urgency.

Deputy Minister To Be Named Justice Minister

*OW1203191093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1644
GMT 12 Mar 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The position of Latvian minister of justice, recently resigned by Viktors Skudra, will be occupied by his first deputy, Juris Kaksitis.

The newspaper NEATKARIGA CINA reports that the corresponding decision was adopted on Thursday [11 March] by the Latvian government.

OMON Chief Denies Slaying of Lithuanian Officials

*LD1403220193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2126
GMT 14 Mar 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga March 14 TASS—Sergey Parfyonov, chief of the Riga OMON [special purpose militia detachment] (riot police unit), commenting on the latest publications in the Lithuanian press, later published by Latvian

newspapers, on his alleged involvement in the assassination of customs officers in Medininkai, said that "both Riga and Vilnius OMONs were not made up of ladies from noble institutions or modest boys, but this (the assassination) has nothing to do with OMON guys, they could not bring themselves to do it."

In his letter to his wife, allowed to be circulated by the press, he gave his word of an officer that "he would take part in any investigation into the tragedy which occurred in Medininkai on July 31, 1991, but "only with the participation of Russian investigators and on Russia's territory."

Parfyonov, who was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment last December by Ziemelsk court in the neighbourhood of Riga and currently kept in solitary confinement in Riga's detention centre, wonders who stands to gain by reminding of the "ghost of Riga OMON."

Parfyonov believes "that national forces permanently need an image of a foe to hold him responsible for any mistakes and incompetent decisions. According to Parfyonov, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the sad fate of the Communist Party and 1,500 protesting war veterans have ceased to play the role of a "foe". Therefore, clandestine KGB groups and a bloody ghost of OMONs are being brought to light," Parfyonov said.

Parfyonov drew attention to the fact that allegations about OMON's involvement in the assassination in Medininkai are being widely spread on the eve of his possible extradition to Russia to undergo punishment there.

Prosecutor generals of the two countries have already signed a corresponding agreement on mutual exchange of prisoners - citizens of these two countries. The agreement should be ratified by parliaments of the two countries to enable it to come into force. According to Parfyonov, he is deliberately being turned into an image of a butcher in order to prevent this process.

Rumours are being spread in Latvia that Parfyonov might be extradited to Lithuanian law enforcement bodies whose representatives will allegedly arrive in Riga in the near future.

Lithuania

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Pays Visit

Local Press Previews Talks

*OW1503125993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1239
GMT 15 Mar 93*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There has been extensive response in Lithuania to the brief visit by Russia's foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev scheduled for Monday [15 March].

Media report that Mr. Kozyrev will be received by the Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas at 16 hours local time on Monday. A news-conference is expected after the meeting at 17 hours.

Mr. Kozyrev's visit is so much in focus above all because it's the first such meeting of the Lithuanian head of state with a senior Russian official after the elections. However, the republic's foreign minister Povilas Gylys suggests in an interview with the newspaper "TIESA" that any concrete result is unlikely. In his words, the meeting "has neither been planned nor coordinated".

The newspaper "LIETUVOS RYTAS" regards the visit, taking place on the eve of a session of the Baltic States Council, as a demonstration of the "divide and rule" principle in Russia's foreign policy. The newspaper emphasizes that Mr. Kozyrev has decided to meet only with the leadership of Lithuania but not with that of Latvia and Estonia.

Arrives From Kaliningrad

LD1503185793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladas Burbulis and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Vilnius March 15 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was to the Sejm (parliament) of Lithuania today for talks with President Algirdas Brazauskas after telling journalists at the airport upon arrival that "time has come to develop full-scale good-neighborly relations between Russia and the Lithuanian republic". [passage as received]

Kozyrev explained that the situation with human rights (referring mainly to the rights of the Russian-speaking population) was better than in Estonia and Latvia, but added "there are problems which we need to clarify".

Earlier in Kaliningrad, Kozyrev also said relations between Russia and Lithuania were without "serious problems of the kind which complicate dialogue with Latvia and Estonia".

He further spelt out the remaining problems, including Lithuania's reluctance to sign an agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops and an agreement on social guarantees to servicemen and men who retired from the Russian armed forces.

Kozyrev also said the visa regime Lithuania was planning to introduce for Russian citizens wishing to enter the republic or travel through it in transit was of direct concern to inhabitants of Kaliningrad.

Russia proposed reaching an agreement on transit to and from the Kaliningrad region before Lithuania adopted a law on visas and the border with the Russian Federation.

Kozyrev pointed out that on the whole Lithuania acted in line with its pledge to contribute to the economic and

cultural development of the Kaliningrad region and its commission for delimiting the borders between Russia and the republic was already working.

Kozyrev arrived in Vilnius from Kaliningrad en route to Helsinki, where he will take part in a ministerial meeting of the Baltic Council.

Comments on Pending 'Problems'

LD1503172793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1617 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladas Burbulis and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpt] Vilnius, 15 March—Immediately after his arrival in the capital of the Lithuanian Republic from Kaliningrad, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev set off for the Seimas where he began his conversation with President Algirdas Brazauskas.

Speaking to journalists at the airport, the Russian minister said that "it is the right time to develop all-round good-neighborly relations between Russia and the Lithuanian Republic. Though to tell the truth, there are certain problems we still have to discuss," he stressed. He noted that in Lithuania, unlike Estonia and Latvia, the state of affairs with regard to observance of human rights is favorable. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference 15 Mar

LD1503211193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1511 GMT 15 Mar 93

[News conference given by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Vilnius, with announcer's introduction—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Esteemed listeners, the meeting of Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Kozyrev and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has just concluded. The meeting lasted somewhat longer than planned, however. Andrey Kozyrev's news conference should start at any moment now. There are very many journalists from Lithuania and abroad here in the hall. The news conference will be moderated by Vilius Kavaliauskas, representative for the press. It will also be carried live on Lithuanian television [passage indistinct]

[Kavaliauskas] Today we are meeting with Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation [words indistinct]. Esteemed minister, it is my pleasure to welcome you here on behalf of all the journalists.

[Kozyrev, in Russian] [passage indistinct] I am very satisfied and consider it an honor to have had a lengthy and detailed conversation, which was to the point, with President Brazauskas. I congratulate him on his victory in democratic elections and do not conceal the fact that the Russian leadership, President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and all the other members of the

government now look with hope at the fact that we will now be able to open a new chapter in the development of these relations.

It would, of course, be an exaggeration to say that we don't have any problems. We do have a great many problems and they all merit further serious work. There are contentious problems too, but today I was once again convinced that the intention does exist to resolve these issues, and to do so not in a spirit of confrontation or any kind of return to the past or even of some kind of revenge on specific persons, including, let's say, the Russian or Russian-speaking population, but in a spirit that corresponds to the principles of international law and civilized communication. I think we will be able to start moving along the road of [word indistinct] and the development of comprehensive relations, including economic relations.

I am not going to dwell on this in great detail. It would be better to give you the chance to put questions to myself and the other 12 specialists from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Reporter] I have a question for the minister. DPA Agency. Esteemed minister, the claim is often heard in Lithuania that Russia has secret plans of some kind to get its hands on Lithuania in some form or another, to create a post-Soviet Union or something like that. What is your assessment of such claims?

[Kozyrev] Well, I think that different points of view can be found in Russia (as in other) states. They include extremist points of view, including the ones you are talking about. But that is not Russia, it is not Russia's policy. Russia's policy is personified, guaranteed, and expressed by the president, by President Yeltsin, and you are well aware of his position and have been since the days of the old Union. It has been proved by experience, including some unfortunate experience that we don't want to remember but that we do all remember. So, I think there are no grounds whatsoever for assuming that the Russian leadership or the democratic government of Russia harbors any neo-imperialist ambitions. We should really not like to lose Lithuania as a sovereign partner with equal rights but still a friendly partner and we will fight for this.

[Correspondent] Lithuanian Radio, External Service. Minister, does the policy which Russia is conducting toward Lithuania differ from that which it is conducting toward Latvia and Estonia and if so, why? Thank you.

[Kozyrev] Yes, it is different but not primarily because we have a policy that is different a priori, but because practices in each Baltic state are different. I have spoken about this before, and we certainly take this into account in developing our contacts and our relations. The differences are known to you, however: the situation as regards the observance of human rights, and attitudes to national minorities, including our Russian compatriots. I'm taking this issue because it is undoubtedly of concern to us. It is one of the most urgent issues and there are

significant, even great, differences. Lithuania has its own problems, of course. We have discussed them today but problems that are linked to difficulties at a rather mundane level are one thing. The legislative and political processes for driving out the Russian or Russian-speaking population etc that are, in our opinion, being implemented in the other republics are quite another thing. Of course there is a difference but, in our view, it's a difference that is in Lithuania's favor.

[Correspondent] (Vashkevich). IZVESTIYA. Andrey Vladimirovich, what initial accords have the sides reached on Kaliningrad oblast during your visit? How do you see this problem now that you have visited Kaliningrad oblast and Lithuania?

[Kozyrev] Well, I can only answer in theory. I think it would make more sense if (Yuriy Semenovich Marchkin) went through that issue with us.

In theory, when I was in Kaliningrad and met the military there, I was persuaded that the approach of the Lithuanian leadership, of Lithuania, and not only in matters of human rights but in many other issues, such as dealing with the military, that we talked about, although there are problems there too [from this point onward an interpreter is providing superimposed Lithuanian translation]—this attitude is somewhat significantly quieter and more civilized. We have special agreements. We have discussed this today, that there is no need to take any steps which would complicate the visa or transport system, on the contrary measures should be taken which would strengthen the links and cooperation of the Kaliningrad oblast and Lithuania.

I think that it is absolutely evident that neither Lithuania nor the Kaliningrad oblast will be able to escape from each other; they both coexist in good-neighborly relations and solve all the questions in a civilized way by which all the parties, Russia, Lithuania, and the Kaliningrad oblast will only benefit. I confirmed to the president that we have friendly relations with the Lithuanian government and the departments. Today's issue is to give a new impetus to our relations and to practically change the direction, to change to a new level. The issues of the state border should be resolved, the transit agreement must be implemented, and new economic links must be set up more vigorously among our enterprises. This process has already started. There are 20 joint Lithuanian-Russian enterprises, which is significantly less than the number of Polish-Lithuanian enterprises. Perhaps we have not been working effectively enough, however, today we have been convinced once again that new possibilities for the development of economic links are arising. This is the most important thing to us. Once the economic relations have been normalized, then all the other problems will be solved more easily.

[Correspondent] During the congress President Yeltsin said that he would take measures to stabilize the situation. What measures could these be?

[Kozyrev] I think that the president will answer such questions himself. Now we are assessing the situation which has developed after the congress, and new assessments of this situation are expected. I think that it is best to wait, because in the next few days the president will speak on television and will answer these questions.

[Correspondent] ITAR-TASS. Mr. Minister, did yours and Mr. Brazauskas' points of view coincide concerning the forthcoming meeting in Helsinki, and did you discuss this question?

[Kozyrev] I must say that we have discussed it, if only in general terms, however, I was talking to the president and not the minister of foreign affairs, and it would not be fitting to discuss the technical side of the issue with the president. I presented my point of view and my conviction of the necessity to establish the post of high commissioner for nationality minorities for the protection of human rights and for cooperation with the authorities in the region. This would not duplicate the work of the high commissioner within the framework of the CSCE; the universal human rights protection problem will be specified. A somewhat different position on the issue was given by some departments to the president. The president's remarks that scores of high commissioners and commissions are also engaged in the problems of human rights protection in the Council of Europe and other institutions of West Europe, yet nobody says that they are duplicating one another, made a very great impression on me. Everybody understands that this problem is so complex that even the most democratic country is very far from being perfect, therefore, as long as civilization remains, this problem will exist. The more institutions are engaged in tackling this problem, the more benefit will the citizens of the state get from it. I think that this remark of the president opens up perspectives for further discussions in the future at the diplomatic and working level, which would enable us to square our positions on this, to my mind, pressing issue of setting up a post of human rights high commissioner in the Baltic states. I think that our positions are very close on other issues concerning cooperation.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in August you said at the meeting of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian ministers that our common enemy was aggressive nationalism. How would you comment on this statement?

[Kozyrev] I would like to say that setting up this post for the protection of national minorities and rights would indicate that one is fighting against aggressive nationalism, because the restoration of the national state is one thing, yet some cleansing or restricting of people's rights on nationality grounds would precisely be aggressive nationalism which could [words indistinct] in the relations between our states.

[Correspondent] Mexican television. Have you observed any change or any sequence in the foreign policy of

Lithuania toward the Russian Federation since the results of the Lithuanian elections and the new leadership took power?

[Kozyrev] I think it would be rather premature to make some final assessments. I would not like to make any direct comparisons, however, we cannot ignore the fact, here is the newspaper given to me by the president, a newspaper of the day before yesterday, where the prime minister voices his rather pragmatic standpoint on using common sense in [words indistinct] neighborhood. I can specifically say here that this point of view will cause a very vigorous reaction. My visit here, although very modest, is nevertheless a signal that we are prepared to develop these relations.

[Kavaliauskas] I think that this visit and this meeting will indeed serve to promote further improvement in our relations. Thank you, esteemed colleagues.

Briefing Details Lithuanian Viewpoint

LD1603120593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1535 GMT 15 Mar 93

[News conference given by Academician Raimondas Rajackas, chief adviser to the president of Lithuania, in Vilnius on 15 March, with announcer's introduction—live]

[Text] [Announcer] The live relay [of Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev's news conference has not yet ended because in a few moments another news conference, this time by Academician Raimondas Rajackas, chief adviser to the president, will start. He will present the point of view of the Lithuanian side on the meeting between Algirdas Brazauskas and Andrey Kozyrev. The briefing will start soon and therefore the journalists are remaining in their seats.

The briefing should be interesting. We will hear the opinion of our representatives on Russian-Lithuanian relations.

[Second announcer] As agreed, we will now have a short news conference held by Academician Raimondas Rajackas. As is known, Mr. Rajackas, chief adviser to the president of Lithuania, took part in the talks with the Russian foreign minister and I think it will be interesting to hear the opinion of the Lithuanian side.

[Rajackas] My greetings to the journalists and to the television viewers. As I understand it, I should supplement what you have already heard, because, indeed during an hour long discussion with the president a somewhat wider range of issues were been discussed than you have just heard. It is understandable that Mr. Kozyrev did not have the time to present all the issues here. With your permission I will give you some supplementary information on the spectrum of the issues which arose on both sides, then you will have somewhat better information.

I think that probably Mr. Kozyrev considers the issue with which he concluded the news conference was

debated longest of all. It concerned setting up the post of commissioner at the Council of the Baltic States. He stressed this issue most of all and made efforts to substantiate why they believe that such a post is needed. Well, of course, if everything is in order then there is nothing to fear from inspection of the situation of national minorities.

However, Mr. Kozyrev probably did not manage to present this point but he made it understood that this would make life easier for the democratic forces in Russia, it would help them to stand against the aggressive forces in Russia which, as you know, have recently become very active. There are forces which, on the basis of various complaints—letters of complaint are pouring into various departments of Russia—demand that force must be used. This was presented by him in a very understandable way and he said that of course such path which he, Mr. Kozyrev, is proposing would be rather more flexible and more forward-looking. He pointed out on more than one occasion that in Lithuania the issue of national minorities in Lithuania is in a significantly better situation than in other Baltic states and that there are no reproaches to us. But then the question arose: What are you afraid of? President Brazauskas made it understood clearly that this should be a collective decision of the Baltic states, that Lithuania should not act unilaterally without prior coordination with both Latvia and Estonia. Therefore, this issue was the broadest of all probably, judging by the time it took to discuss it.

Following this, Mr. Kozyrev asked how the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania is progressing. Our side pointed out that it is more or less satisfactory but that it could be better. We said that. Then Mr. Kozyrev expressed his concern about the transit of Russian troops from, say, Smolensk to Kaliningrad oblast. The problem is the transportation of the troops when they have the necessary military documents. He said there have been instances when they were searched and various civil documents were requested, that their movements were hindered. This violates the 29 July agreement.

On our side the president pointed out that there is such an agreement and that some other implications could be seen in this problem because, as we know, much contraband goods are being transported—especially nonferrous metals and so on. Therefore, sometimes there are grounds for suspicion.

Following this Mr. Kozyrev was interested in the pensions of former servicemen. Our side promised to monitor and clarify these matters.

Then our president raised the issue, or more precisely perhaps, gave to understand that if Russia increases the pressure very much concerning the prices to us of resources then we could apply pressure concerning the transit customs duties. Everything should be assessed. There are certain figures, although I do not know how exact these figures are. This should be investigated. Lithuania could exert considerable economic pressure

on the transit of various goods and various type of freight. We can also earn a considerable amount of money on that. Therefore, we can respond to their pressure by exerting economic pressure as well.

Apart from this, our president raised the issue of buildings which belonged to Lithuania, to the Lithuanian embassies, until 1940—in Paris and Rome—and their return to Lithuania. Mr. Kozyrev said that this issue should be cleared up and all this should be settled through negotiations.

Then the issue concerning the Russian Embassy building here arose. We, in our turn, explained that this was not a very easy matter, that we have problems with buildings in general, that the president's office does not have a building of its own. This question was concluded with a smile.

After that, Mr. Kozyrev raised the issue of the families which want to return to Russia from Mazeikiai, the families which came to Lithuania during the construction of the oil refinery as specialists. According to him, this concerns about 400 people or 137 families and that Lithuania is not carrying out its obligations in constructing homes for them [words indistinct].

This more or less supplements the issues which were not touched on during the first press conference. In general, the discussion was very benevolent and I think that nobody would be surprised about this because you all know what forces Mr. Kozyrev represents and what the situation is after the Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

[Conference Chairman Vilius Kavaliauskas] Now I would like to correct my mistakes, because some of you may have become upset because I did not allow you to ask Mr. Kozyrev a question. You see, time was limited but now you can use this opportunity.

[LIETUVOS AIDAS Correspondent] Daily LIETUVOS AIDAS. Mr. Rajackas, was Mr. Kozyrev asked to explain the Russian law of 21 January according to which Russian servicemen serving in military conflicts are granted certain privileges. [Words indistinct] the Baltic region was indicated. That is the first question. The second question is of a rather explanatory nature: Did I understand correctly when you said that the president is prepared in the event of Russia's economic pressure to use the same measures which were used by Mr. Vagnorius when Russia exerted pressure a year ago?

[Rajackas] In answer to the first question I can say that there was no mention of this. In answer to the second question, I told you what our president said without any reference to Mr. Vagnorius or anyone else. Today I would have to try to remember what these measures were because a year ago I was not in Lithuania. I cannot tell you how to define precisely the measures used by Mr. Vagnorius.

[ANSA correspondent] Italian News Agency: The Congress [of People's Deputies] which has ended in Moscow

is seen as the defeat of the democratic forces. Was the issue of future relations between Russia and the Baltic states discussed in the even the undemocratic forces came out as winners? And what is Mr. Brazauskas' evaluation of what happened in Moscow?

[Rajackas] I must say that the Congress was not specifically discussed. This would have required a considerable extension of the time limits. [passage indistinct]

[Magazine correspondent] (R.G.) magazine. Were the main issues which Mr. Kozyrev raised in western Europe and which very nearly caused a state of shock to everybody touched on again? Then, what is (?Russia) and what does it want? If the issue of transit and the commissioner is raised, should the transit be resolved by our officials who would form special service units which would accompany the transit vehicles all the time? Should the commissioner be somebody from a neutral western country or from the interested countries?

[Rajackas] [Passage indistinct] concerning the commissioner, Mr. Kozyrev said very clearly that they do not propose this commissioner to be from Russia. According to him the commissioner could be Finnish, for example.

[Press agency correspondent] [name indistinct] press agency, Spain. Today, the world radio announced that one of the motives for Kozyrev's visit was to propose that Lithuania should support the idea of setting up an international fund for the housing of the servicemen withdrawn from the Baltics. Was this issue touched on?

[Rajackas] No, it was not.

[Japanese news agency correspondent] Japanese news agency. Was the issue of Lithuanians living in Kaliningrad oblast touched on?

[Rajackas] Not specifically.

[LIETUVOS RYTAS correspondent] LIETUVOS RYTAS daily. Could you give your comment on Kozyrev's speech which he made in Kaliningrad oblast and which was disseminated by the TASS agency. He said, and I am translating word by word from the Russian, that there are some problems in the dialogue with Latvia and Estonia, and although the relations with Lithuania are better there are still unresolved questions which concerns Lithuania's reluctance to sign agreements concerning the withdrawal of the Russian troops and concerning social guarantees to the servicemen. According to him, this blocks the carrying out of the schedule for the withdrawal of the troops from Lithuania. Was this issue mentioned?

[Rajackas] No, not in the angle you have presented. I have told you about the question concerning the withdrawal of the troops. He asked how the withdrawal is proceeding and the issue was discussed only briefly. I could not comment on what Mr. Kozyrev said or where he said it because I do not have such information here and I cannot recall it right away. You must ask me what took place today, this is our objective.

[Correspondent Pangonyte] Mrs. Pangonyte. I am sorry, I do not understand clearly what this commissioner means. What is it going to be? Is it an official at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and in what department is he going to work? [passage indistinct] is this a supervision or is it a compulsion or is it, so to speak, assistance?

[Rajackas] Perhaps the very word commissioner sounds a bit threatening. This is not a commissioner from a country. In fact, it would be a representative, an observer of human rights at the Baltic Council. And I repeat, not necessarily from Russia. This would be an official for these states. Perhaps I will now elucidate more on this.

The question was raised that such representatives already exist at the European Council. Would this not be enough? Why are more needed? This question was put to Mr. Kozyrev: Why is a commissioner needed specifically for the Baltic states? Mr. Kozyrev explained that if everything was in order then in fact there was nothing to fear. Only then we would always be able to say, when we are pressured by the rightwingers: Look, there is an official, go and ask his opinion about whether the situation is that bad over there. When the rightwing forces putting pressure on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and specifically on Mr. Kozyrev, then there is an address to where requests for information can be directed. And he also added that the Baltic states are civilized states and that this would be a good example to show to the rest of the former Soviet republics because this problem, he said, is equally pressing in the former transcaucasian republics and central Asia. The problem exists everywhere and we believe, he said, because you are highly civilized indeed, then this process could start here and serve as a model indicating to the others how one should behave. Now I have given you a detailed account of this issue.

[ITAR-TASS correspondent] ITAR-TASS agency. [Words indistinct] question about the conference in Surgut.

[Rajackas] It was only briefly mentioned. In fact, the discussions held in Surgut were not discussed. However, the issue of oil was discussed. As far as I can remember, the leader of Kaliningrad oblast said that the supply of oil has been resumed. When the issue of the families who wanted to emigrate from Mazeikiiai back to Russia was raised it was mentioned at this point that these people were also unemployed because the oil refinery is idle.

[ITAR-TASS correspondent] ITAR-TASS. The first question is: Was the date when the negotiations between Lithuania and Russia would be resumed discussed or not. And the second question is as follows: The meeting between Mr. Landsbergis and Yeltsin was to take place before the Seimas elections. Is a meeting between Mr. Brazauskas and Yeltsin to be expected?

[Rajackas] The resumption of negotiations was not discussed specifically. However, Mr. Kozyrev said right at the start of the discussion that he would like to see our

new delegation as soon as possible. There was no mention of a specific meeting with Mr. Yeltsin or a proposal for this.

[VALSTICIU LAIKRASTIS correspondent] VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS daily. I would like to ask a question concerning the commissioner. It is evident that pressing this post on us is not acceptable to Lithuania, Latvia, or Estonia. Do you not think that this post would become very dangerous if the conservative forces took power in Russia? In that event nationality problems would appear in Lithuania as well.

[Rajackas] I think if the conservative forces came to power in Russia, then this very fact would be significantly more dangerous than (?this post).

[Kavaliauskas] Thank you for your attention.

Meeting 'Very Friendly'

OW1603110393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1048
GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian President's spokesman, Raimundas Rajeckas, described the Monday meeting between President Brazauskas and Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev as very friendly.

He told journalists that the meeting centered around the appointment of a commissioner for human rights and ethnic minorities of the Baltic Cooperation Council. Kozyrev said this would help Russian democracy rebuff aggressive forces. President Brazauskas said the matter requires a collective decision of Baltic countries.

The two sides also discussed the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania which according to the Lithuanian side is proceeding fairly well.

According to Rajeckas, at the meeting the president made it clear that if Lithuania is being pressured by higher fuel and energy prices, it might resort to countermeasures by restricting Russian transit across its territory, for example.

Brazauskas 'Very Satisfied' With Talks

OW1603110193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1048
GMT 16 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview for Baltfax after his Monday meeting in Vilnius with the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev the Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has stressed the importance of expanding economic relations between the two countries.

When the Lithuanian leader was asked about the most complicated problem of bilateral relations, he said: "I would not call it a problem but a job, the job of working out a trade and economic agreement".

In his opinion the faster such an agreement is signed, the better because some matters require immediate solutions. The president said Lithuania has many questions related to the neighboring Kaliningrad region. He was very satisfied with his talks with Kozyrev because they demonstrated mutual understanding. The Lithuanian leader said the visit was a big event for his country.

Kozyrev 'Deeply Satisfied'

OW1503204293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1909
GMT 15 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There are numerous problems in Russo-Lithuanian relations but both sides intend to resolve them rejecting the spirit of confrontation or revenge for the past, even less so, of revenge on the Russian population in Lithuania. This statement was made by Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's Foreign Minister, following his Monday [15 March] talks with President Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania. He noted that Russia's policy vis-a-vis Lithuania is indeed different from that vis-a-vis other Baltic countries. This is explained by the fact that Lithuania has adopted an attitude towards its Russian-speaking population and its rights which is different from those in Estonia and Latvia. In the words of the minister, ethnic problems exist in Lithuania in relations between individuals while the two other Baltic republics pursue a policy of squeezing the Russian-speaking population out and that policy becomes the official one.

Kozyrev said that he was deeply satisfied with a long and meaningful talk with Algirdas Brazauskas. He emphasized that the Russian leadership, President Boris Yeltsin, and Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin hope that a new chapter will start in the bilateral relations. In the follow up on the recent presidential election in Lithuania he thought it was too early to make final estimates of the possible changes in the bilateral links. He said, however, that Russia took note of the very pragmatic and reasonable statements made by Brazauskas and other Lithuanian leaders on relations with Russia. In the words of Kozyrev, "This results in most responsive steps undertaken in Moscow."

In the forthcoming meeting of the Baltic Council in Helsinki, the minister said, Russia will press for creating a position of a high commissioner on ethnic minorities and protection of human rights in the countries of the region. This post would not duplicate the one set up in the framework of the CSCE process. Kozyrev said that President Brazauskas had agreed that there was no question of duplication. In Helsinki the situation will become clearer following the presentation of the positions of all countries.

The subject of Lithuania's cooperation with the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation was broached at the news conference. The minister said that the representative of the Kaliningrad Region and Lithuania were engaged in a quiet business-like, albeit difficult,

dialogue. Yuriy Matochkin, head of the Kaliningrad Region administration endorsed this view and said that the two sides had to agree on the frontier, on a transit mechanism, and on economic links. He added that over 20 joint ventures had been set up between Kaliningrad Region and Lithuania, but this is obviously an insignificant number.

Talks Said 'Businesslike'

LD1503203493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vldas Burbulis and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Vilnius March 15 TASS—Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Kozyrev said his brief visit to Vilnius was meant to show "our determination to develop full-scale good-neighbourly relations between Russia and Lithuania."

Kozyrev who was speaking at a news conference in the parliament building after talks with President Algirdas Brazauskas.

"This is our choice, a choice of the democratic leadership of Russia - made when the Soviet Union still existed - in support of the national sovereignty of the Baltic countries, including Lithuania," Kozyrev said.

According to Kozyrev, Lithuania was pursuing a balanced and realistic policy both at home (in protecting human and minority rights and in developing links with Russia) and on the international arena.

The Russian minister expressed deep satisfaction with his talks with President Brazauskas and stressed that their conversation was substantial and circumstantial and covered a wide range of problems, which can lead to the turning of a new page in relations between Russia and Lithuania, although some contentious and unresolved issues exist.

"We can and must clean away the accumulated problems of the past. Russia has no secret plans for taking Lithuanian in hand. The policy pursued by the leadership of democratic Russia headed by President Boris Yeltsin is not such. My visit here is a modest signal for the development of good neighbourly relations with Lithuania," Kozyrev said.

Asked if Kozyrev and Brazauskas discussed the coordination of the two countries' positions at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Baltic States in Helsinki, the Russian minister of foreign affairs said they touched upon the establishment of the post of the Baltic Council's Commissar for Human and Minority Rights in the Baltics, to which Russia attaches great importance.

Lithuanian Ambassador at large [as received] Raimondas Rajackas who spoke after Kozyrev told the news

conference that the Lithuanian president and the Russian minister met in a businesslike and amiable atmosphere. He said a number of aspects of economic relations between the two countries had been touched upon, especially those relating to Russia's sales of energy resources to Lithuania, transit via the republic to the Kaliningrad region and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania.

Committee Chairman on 'Bad' State of Agriculture

WS1603131093 Tallinn BNS in English 1048 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 16, BNS—Lithuania's agricultural situation is so bad, the country's current leaders probably will not be able to help its farmers, said Mykolas Pronskus, chairman of the parliament's agriculture committee.

The government's average meat purchases in January and February dropped 2.6 times, while dairy purchases dropped 2 times compared to 1989. That's the year, says Pronskus, that "a revolutionary perestroika" began. The decrease of meat-purchase ranges from 1.6 to 5.3 times in various regions.

Pronskus, a member of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, told Lithuanian radio Monday [15 March] that the number of cattle dropped 30 percent and pigs 50 percent, compared to 1989. The parliament of Lithuania will soon discuss aid to the country's agriculture, he said.

Lithuania was a major supplier of meat and dairy products to the two biggest cities of the former Soviet Union—Moscow and Leningrad—during the years of the Soviet rule. Meat and dairy products were considered "strategic goods" in relations with Moscow after the restoration of Lithuanian independence. However in 1992 it became evident that those plans cannot continue after the reform in agriculture and a drought last summer.

First Commercial Television Station Founded

LD1603130793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] BNS reports that the first nonstate television station Baltic Television has been founded in Lithuania. This week it is to be registered at the Ministry of Economy. The initial capital of the joint enterprise is \$318,000; 49 percent belongs to a U.S. firm, 30 percent to the state, and 21 percent to private persons.

The U.S. corporation is a financial organization which, apart from other business, deals in equipment, including the hire of television and broadcasting equipment. The president of the corporation is a Lithuanian emigre, Kestutis Makaitis, who has also invested in another nonstate television, Information for Lithuania, which is currently being set up.

Baltic Television will be a commercial television station broadcasting news and entertainment programs. [passage indistinct]